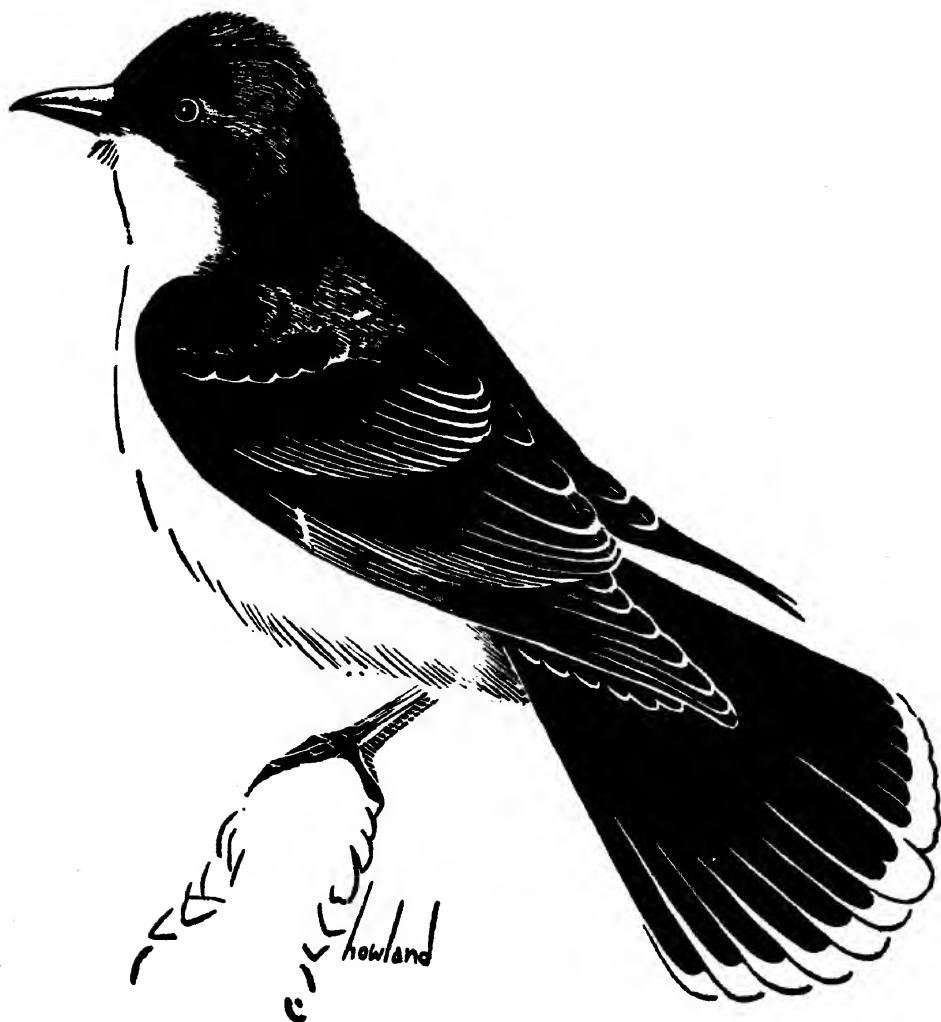


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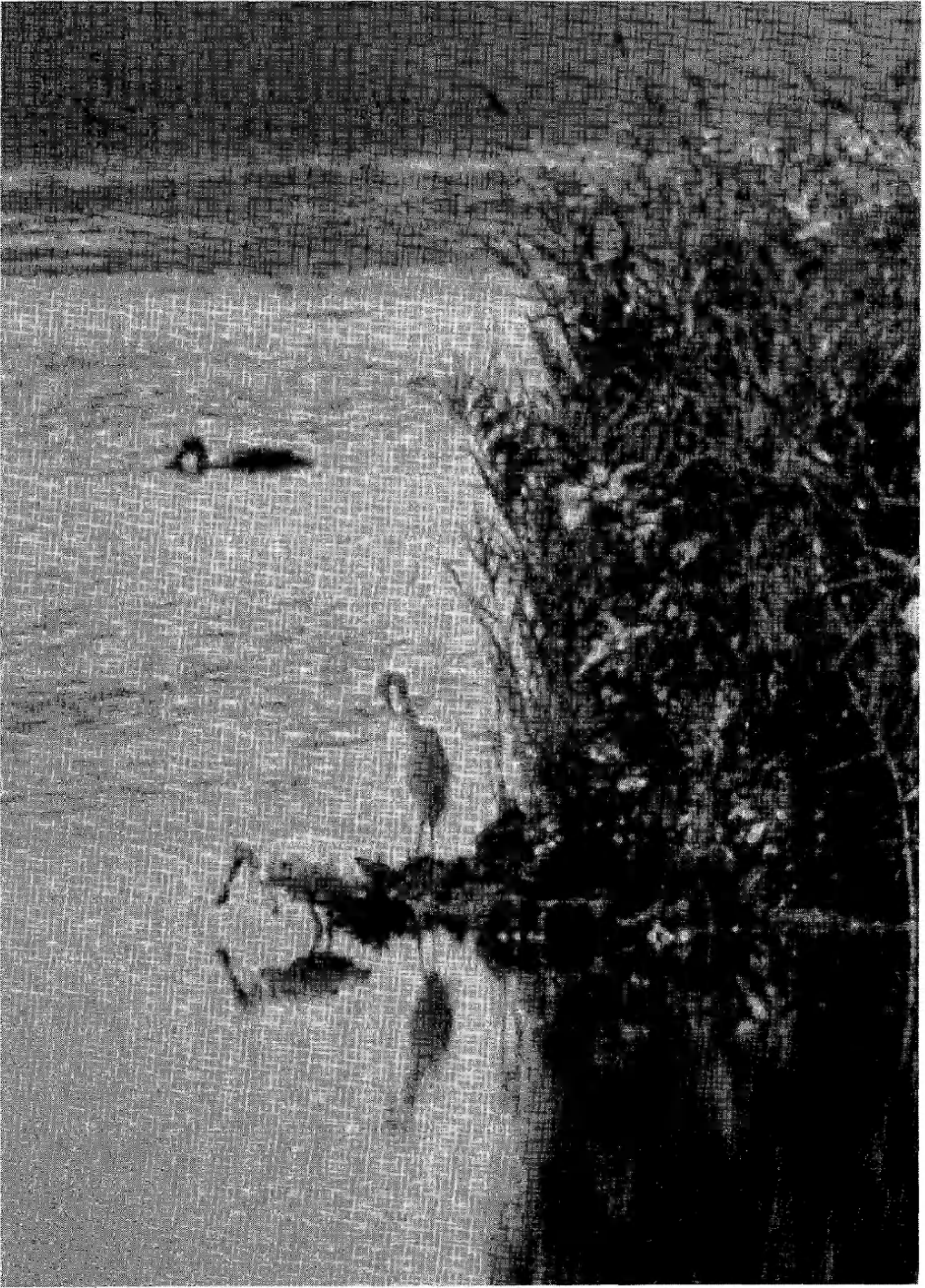
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Juvenile Roseate Spoonbill at Goethals Bridge Pond, Staten Island, New York, 20 August 1993. Photograph by Chris Aquila.

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK RARITIES 56:
ROSEATE SPOONBILL ON STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK**

LORNA AND ERIC SALZMAN

On 20 August 1992, at approximately 11 AM while conducting a survey of the Harbor Herons sites on Staten Island, Richmond County, New York, Lorna Salzman and Carolyn Summers of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection observed a juvenile Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) at Goethals Bridge Pond. The spoonbill was first seen resting on a mud flat. Its head was completely feathered. Its overall coloration was white with pink wings, paler on top, seemingly deeper underneath. Its was comparable in size to a Great Egret and noticeably larger than nearby Snowy Egret. Its bill, at first hidden in the back feathers, eventually was displayed and its characteristic shape seen well; the bill color was a strong yellow, almost orange toward the tip in some lights. The legs were grayish and the bird was unbanded. Although the bird spent much of its time roosting with its bill tucked into its back feathers, it did show a typically "frenzied" feeding activity later in the day. The spoonbill appeared to be in good plumage and a check of local collections produced no indication of lost or escaped spoonbills. The species apparently has not been bred in captivity and it is almost certain this juvenile was a wild bird. Its appearance preceded even the beginnings of hurricane Andrew and does not seem to have been connected with any storm. Salzman and Summers were accompanied by Dana Lee of the Natural Resources Unit and Sheila Metcalf of the Department of City Planning. The bird was photographed extensively roosting and feeding that afternoon by Chris Aquila of the New York City Parks Department.

The spoonbill was rediscovered the following morning on the edge of nearby Prall's Island. At 11:15 it returned to the pond where it perched on a half-submerged supermarket cart 100 feet or less from shore, where it was observed and photographed by a number of birders. It apparently divided most of its time between these two sites. Reports of its appearance on a nearby creek were not confirmed. Local residents, some of whom appeared to be able to distinguish the spoonbill from the many egrets and herons that frequent the area, reported that the bird had been present for some time before 20 August. There also were several reports of a second, adult bird. While there is no evidence for the presence of a

second bird, it is likely that the immature bird was present for an undetermined period before it was documented.

Salzman and Summers originally were alerted to the possible presence of something unusual by a local crabber's account of a "pink swan" that landed on nearby Saw Mill Creek, a description that suggested the bird's size (on the order of a Great, not a Snowy, Egret) as well as the prominent pink underwing coloration and extended-neck profile. The bird was last seen briefly on 5 September, when it was reported to have been scared off by an exploding tire on a vehicle on the nearby bridge approach! Ironically, the New York City area had previously been flooded with false spoonbill alarms due to the dispersal of Snowy Egret that had been dyed pink by a researcher in New Jersey, and whose presence complicated determination of locations and numbers in the summer-long spate of "spoonbill" reports. As of now, only the one bird and two locations have been confirmed.

This is the first New York State record of Roseate Spoonbill, which is rare anywhere north of peninsular Florida and the Gulf Coast. Spoonbills occasionally wander north of their breeding range to western and central North America, but there are extraordinarily few records from the Northeast or, for that matter, anywhere on the Atlantic Coast north of the Carolinas, and many of the handful of older reports can not be confirmed. A juvenile spoonbill spent much of the summer of 1992 in North Carolina and a possible second bird was also reported. There is a single accepted Maryland record from Smith Island, Chesapeake Bay, in the late 1970s, an unconfirmed Delaware report from August 1992, and a Pennsylvania specimen taken in 1843 that is almost entirely innocent of any documentation. There apparently are no accepted records for Virginia, New Jersey, New England or Atlantic Canada. Recent appearances of Reddish Egret on Jamaica Bay in May 1991, and on Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod during the summer of 1992 (these last reports presumably of a single bird) are of a species whose North American range and propensity for wandering are very similar to the Roseate Spoonbill's.

Goethals Bridge Pond is owned and managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It is a shallow, brackish pond surrounded by Phragmites and has extensive growths of Rose Mallow and Saltmarsh Fleabane at its edges. It is an excellent site for shorebirds and herons. Among the species observed or reported on the pond during the spoonbill's visit were Marbled Godwit, Red Phalarope,

Pectoral and White-rumped Sandpipers. About 40% of the breeding herons in the Connecticut/New York/New Jersey region breed and feed on New York City wetlands. Prall's Island and the extensive adjacent wetlands are part of the Harbor Herons, a project that protects not just the heronries but also the adjacent feeding grounds. In addition to the herons and cormorants, Harbor Herons researchers recently have found several marsh species, including Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Clapper Rail, breeding in the tidal wetlands in Richmond County. These are the first confirmed records of the latter for Staten Island and the harbor area since the 1930s.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lorna Salzman is the wetlands planner of the Natural Resources Unit of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and Carolyn Summers is the deputy director of the Unit. The Natural Resources Unit was created by Albert Appleton, the Commissioner of the Department and the former Conservation Chairman of New York City Audubon. The new Unit is intended to give the Department of Environmental Protection an emphasis on habitat protection and preservation; its objectives include better protection of the Catskill watershed, Jamaica Bay, the Harbor Herons Urban Wetlands Refuge on and adjacent to Staten Island, and New York City wetlands generally. We thank Chris Aquila for supplying the photograph.

29 Middagh Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

CASPIAN TERN NESTING AT LITTLE GALLOO ISLAND: A NEW NESTING SPECIES FOR NEW YORK STATE

D.V. CHIP WESELOH¹ AND HANS BLOKPOEL²

Since at least the days of Eaton (1910), in New York State the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) has been described as a transient or migrant on its way to breeding or wintering grounds. More recently, Bull (1974) listed it as a non-breeding species of the "cosmopolitan element" along with such species as the Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*), the Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) and the Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*). However, since this species historically nested on Salmon Island (Merriman 1932), and since at least the 1960s in good numbers on Pigeon Island, both on the Ontario side of eastern Lake Ontario (Blokpoel and Scharf 1991), nesting attempts in the New York portion of Lake Ontario would not be totally unexpected.

On 21 June 1986, during the course of contaminant related studies of colonial birds breeding on Little Galloo Island, DVW observed 160 adult Caspian Terns on the westsouthwest portion of the island. On closer inspection, he found that the terns were nesting. At the time, this constituted a new nesting species for New York state. Mike Peterson, who visited the tern colony with him on 7 July 1986, has given a brief synopsis of this nesting record (Peterson, 1988). This note, albeit several years after the discovery, provides details of that first nesting and comments on its significance.

LITTLE GALLOO ISLAND

Little Galloo Island is located in the United States portion of eastern Lake Ontario, off Sacketts and Henderson Harbors, Jefferson County. Belknap (1968) described the island as follows:

Little Galloo Island, about 43 acres in extent, lies near the eastern end of Lake Ontario some 5 1/2 miles from the mainland. Roughly oval, it is three-sevenths of a mile in the longer dimension. The island is composed of rock with a thin covering of soil. Grass and weeds constitute much of the vegetation. The number of trees is limited and these are mainly around the perimeter. The interior resembles a level, grassy meadow.

This description was still valid for 1986, except that most of the trees

had died and toppled. The few trees left standing at the time of this writing (1992) included a few ashes (*Fraxinus* sp.) and Manitoba Maples (*Acer negundo*) on the south and southwest shore, a distinctive clump of four oaks (*Quercus* sp.) on the southsoutheast shore and 2-3 dozen Hackberry Trees (*Celtis occidentalis*) on the east end of the island.

The island has a long history of nesting by colonial water birds including Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*) and Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) (Blokpoel and Weseloh 1982). A complete nest census, carried out in 1981 showed that the Ring-billed Gull (almost 74,000 nests) was by far the most common breeder, as all other species had fewer than 500 nests (Blokpoel and Weseloh 1982).

Between 1979 and 1985 DVW visited Little Galloo Island 14 times during the 1 May - 31 July period in six of seven years. In each year, he and at least one other observer walked the entire perimeter of the island at least once and the island was completely censused in 1981 (Blokpoel and Weseloh 1982). During that time he never observed Caspian Terns on the island.

RESULTS IN 1986

In 1986, DVW visited Little Galloo Island on nine dates: 17 and 23 April, 14 May, 19, 21, 22 and 26 June and 2 and 7 July. Caspian Tern was not noticed on the island until 21 June but the specific area in which they nested had not been visited until that date. At all times the terns were extremely quiet and their presence was not noticed until the observer was within about 100 m of the nesting area.

The terns nested on the extreme west southwest side of the island, approximately 50 m inland from a stone beach ridge and 55-60 m from the water's edge. The substrate was firm, but not dried, soil/mud (see below) with some vegetative plant growth, e.g., mustard (Cruciferae). Ring-billed Gull nested loosely along the perimeter of the tern nesting area on the east side. Double-crested Cormorant nested quite densely on the ground 20 m to the northwest. Other nesting colonial water birds on the island were Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Cattle Egret. In DVW's estimation, the numbers of these other colonial water birds in 1986 had not changed dramatically from the census of 1981, except the cormorant numbers had increased from 461 to 1468 nests.

Table 1. Results of counts of nests and contents of Casplan Tern nests on Little Galloo Island, 1986.

Nest Contents	22 June	7 July*
0 eggs	2	3
1 egg	26	36
2 eggs	55	69
3 eggs	4	2
1 chick	5	2
2 chicks	4	0
Total	96	112

* On 2 July, 109 nests were counted

Caspian Tern nests were not counted on 21 June but DVW returned on 22 June and on 7 July and counted all Caspian Tern present, their nests and contents (Table 1). A total of 160 adults were recorded on the colony site on 22 June. The average clutch size of nests with eggs was 1.74 on 22 June ($N = 85$) and 1.68 on 7 July ($N = 107$). There were already small chicks (up to about one week old) present on 22 June, suggesting that the first eggs had been laid about 23 May (*cf.* Peck and James 1983). The maximum number of Caspian Tern nests recorded on Little Galloo Island in 1986 was 112 on 7 July.

DISCUSSION

A few aspects of the colonization of Little Galloo Island by the Caspian Tern deserve further comment. Regarding nest chronology, in 1986 Caspian Terns nested later (first eggs laid about 23 May) at Little Galloo Island than at Pigeon Island, 8 km to the north, where eggs were in evidence on 7 May (DVW, pers. obs.). New or first time colonies often show delayed breeding phenology compared to more established colonies (Gochfeld 1980; Ryder 1980).

The number of Caspian Tern at Little Galloo Island in its initial year (112) is much greater than that for other new colonies. For five other colonies on Lakes Ontario and Huron where the number of nests in the colony's first year was known, the average colony size was 21 nests with a range 4 to 48 (Table 2). The large number of Caspian Tern could perhaps be explained as birds displaced from another colony and resettled en masse, or that a large group of new recruits (presumably

Table 2. Numbers of nests at six Caspian Tern colonies on the Great Lakes during the colonies' first years.

Site	Lake*	Year	Nests	Source
Eastern Headland	O	1976	7	Fetterolf and Blokpoel 1983
Goose Island	H	1982	4	Scharf and Shugart 1983
Black River Island	H	1982	6	Scharf and Shugart 1983
Channel-Shelter Island	H	1982	38	Scharf and Shugart 1983
Hamilton Harbour	O	1986	48	Dobos <i>et al.</i> 1988
Little Galloo Island	O	1986	112	This study

*O = Lake Ontario, H = Lake Huron

largely born on Lake Ontario) was ready to breed but could not establish territories at known colonies in Lake Ontario or that pre-1986 nesting was not noted because the terns stayed put during DVW's earlier visits (an unlikely scenario).

It is also remarkable that a large number of terns was able to colonize an island that, to our eyes, was already "saturated" with nesting gulls. In 1981, we counted over 73,000 Ring-billed Gull nests at Little Galloo Island. That number did not appear to have changed much between then and 1986. The island's entire surface area was occupied by nesting colonial birds at various densities. In a dense Ring-billed Gull colony at the Eastern Headland at Toronto, the increasing numbers of Ring-billed Gull appear to have simply taken over a Caspian Tern colony site with nearly 200 nests and eventually forced the terns to go elsewhere (Blokpoel and Scharf 1991). One might, therefore, ask how could Caspian Tern establish a foothold in such a dense Ring-billed Gull colony at Little Galloo Island? This potential problem seems to have been circumvented by opportunistic timing and placement of the tern nests. The nesting colony was located primarily along the north shore of a small shallow pond, where the water level had been dropping as the summer progressed. Hence, there were few (if any) Ring-billed Gull nesting in the immediate vicinity of the lagoon because dry ground had not been available earlier in the season. Also, although the first Caspian Tern eggs were probably laid about 23 May, the majority of clutches were probably not laid until some time, perhaps at least a week, later, *i.e.*, 30 May, based

on the age of the few young and the clutch size distribution observed on 22 June. Most Caspian Tern nests were on recently dried out mud. By late May many of the Ring-billed Gull that may have been nesting in or close to the area had hatched their young. After hatch, territories of Ring-billed Gull become somewhat "mobile" and defense of nests and territories is less intense. Hence, it may have been through a combination of the terns' nest site selection at the area of receding water and their delayed egg laying, which coincided with the hatching of Ring-billed Gull eggs, that allowed Caspian Tern to become established.

Since 1986 the colony has been active each year (DVW, pers. obs.). In 1990 there were 640 adults present in the colony and in 1991 there were 576 adults (Gerry Smith and Bob Miller, pers. comm.). If we assume that all adults were nesting and that both mates of all nests were present, there were 320 and 288 nests in 1990 and 1991, respectively, a large increase since 1986. On 3 June 1992, J. Neuman (pers. comm.) counted 555 active Caspian Tern nests on Little Galloo Island and 523 nests on Pigeon island. The Little Galloo colony is now one of the largest on Lake Ontario.

Little Galloo Island site was not the only new Caspian Tern colony to be established on Lake Ontario in 1986. A second new colony, bringing the lake's total then to four, was discovered at Hamilton Harbour at the west end of Lake Ontario (R. Curry, pers. comm.; Dobos *et al.* 1988). The other sites active in 1986 were The Eastern Headland at Toronto (Fetterolf and Blokpoel 1983; Blokpoel and Scharf 1991) and Pigeon Island off Kingston (Weir 1989; DVW, pers. obs.).

As a noteworthy aside, in 1986 the water bird colonies at both Little Galloo Island and Hamilton Harbour each supported seven species of nesting colonial water birds. Five species nested at both sites: Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls and Caspian Tern. At Little Galloo there were also Great Black-backed Gull and Cattle Egret. At Hamilton Harbour, Common Tern and Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) also nested (DVW, pers. obs.; Dobos *et al.* 1988). To the best of our knowledge, this is the greatest number of colonial water bird species to nest on any single island/peninsula on the Great Lakes in one year. Little Galloo Island, with its longstanding and diverse assemblage of colonial water birds, is a regionally important site and deserves protection.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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allowing us access to Little Galloo Island and to the several volunteers, assistants and fellow biologists who assisted and accompanied us in this Caspian Tern work on Little Galloo Island: Larry Benner, Jeanette Bider, Bill Lee, Martin McNicholl, Bob Miller, M. Timothy Myres, Jan Neuman, Steve Omerod, Mike Peterson, Christine Reed and Gerry Smith. Logistical support was provided by the Technical Operations Division (Environment Canada) at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters and by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Martin McNicholl, Peter Ewins, Joe Carreiro and Rick Pratt provided comments on an earlier version of the manuscript.

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- 2) Canadian Wildlife Service - Ontario Region, 49 Camelot Drive, Nepean, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3

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ERYTHRISTIC NORTHERN ORIOLES

KENNETH C. PARKES

Erythrism is defined as abnormally reddish coloration. In two modern reference works on birds (Terres 1980; Campbell and Lack 1985), erythrism is attributed to an abnormal change from a black or dark brown melanin pigment to a chestnut-red melanin; examples are given from the Scolopacidae and Phasianidae. In addition, Terres calls the red morph of screech-owls erythrism; this hardly seems appropriate, as there is nothing abnormal about red morph screech-owls. In the venerable predecessor of the Campbell and Lack work (Newton and Gadow 1896), however, erythrism is defined as "the abnormal occurrence of red, mostly confined to originally yellow or orange feathers, occasionally produced by abnormal food..." This phenomenon is exemplified by the abnormal rectrix color in Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) that have ingested certain honeysuckle berries that contain the red pigment rhodoxanthin (see Mulvihill *et al.* 1992), although in most individuals the color is not intense enough to be called red.

On 3 September 1985, while netting and banding migrants on Great Gull Island, at the eastern end of Long Island Sound, NY, I collected a female Northern (Baltimore) Oriole (*Icterus galbula galbula*) in first Basic plumage (HY) that exhibits the kind of erythrism described by Newton and Gadow. In normal females of this age, the throat varies from pale yellow to almost white; the breast color is not matched exactly by any colors in Smithe (1975, 1981), but is perhaps nearest to Yellow Ocher, 123C, of Smithe (1981). This color varies in its posterior extent; in some individuals it extends well down the abdomen, while in others it gives way to gray, slightly washed with yellow, at the edge of the lower breast. In the Great Gull Island bird, the base color of the throat is white, the feathers tipped with yellow; that of the breast is a somewhat brighter yellow than the normal Yellow Ocher (unmatched in Smithe), and the yellow extends all the way to the undertail coverts. The feathers of the sides of the breast, and a few in the center of the breast and the abdomen, are tipped with a color between Chrome Orange (17) and Flame Scarlet (16) of Smithe (1975). The yellow under tail coverts are lightly washed with this color. On the dorsal surface, the only feathers washed with red are a few on each side of the crown just above the eyes, and about a third of the feathers of the rump and upper tail coverts. In addition, the left 4th

rectrix is heavily washed with red, contrasting strongly With the adjacent greenish rectrices. On the right side, rectrix 4 is about 1.5 mm shorter than rectrix 3 and 1 mm longer than rectrix 5. The red rectrix, although apparently not sheathed at the base, is 6 mm shorter than the adjacent rectrix 3 and 4.5 mm shorter than the adjacent rectrix 5. It also has the broad shape of an adult rectrix rather than the narrower shape of the adjacent feathers. It undoubtedly represents a replacement for an accidentally lost rectrix; it is common for such replacement feathers to resemble in color and/or shape the feather that would normally appear at the next molt (pers. obs.).

I have searched without success for other erythristic Northern Orioles in the collections of the National and Delaware Museums of Natural History (and a few small collections not specified in my notes). There are three such specimens in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). AMNH 789515 is a bird in first basic plumage collected at the Kalbfleisch Field Research Station at Huntington, Long Island, by R. Chandler on 21 August 1963. It was sexed as a male, but I am reasonably confident that it was a female. Flattened wing lengths (in mm) of six males in first Basic plumage in Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CM), taken 18 August-16 September, are 92, 92.5, 93, 94, 98, 98. For six females of similar age taken 26 August-8 September, the wing measurements are 88, 88.5, 89.5, 90.5, 90.5, 92.5. The wing of the Kalbfleisch bird measures 90.5, which is typical for females, but conceivably might be an unusually small male. Color characters serve to confirm it as a female, however. In males of *I. g. galbula* in Basic I plumage, the orange color of the underparts is more or less continuous from the chin to the under tail coverts, although richest on the upper breast. In females the area beyond the breast is mostly grayish, with little carotenoid pigmentation. In males, the contrasting centers of the mantle feathers are black, in females dark gray. In males the rump is usually distinctly orange, in females olive with a slight orange wash. The rectrices of males are dull green with a distinct orange wash; in females they are olive with a greenish wash. In all of these characters the "male" Kalbfleisch specimen matches females.

The Kalbfleisch bird is a close match for the Great Gull Island specimen, differing in the following ways. The throat is whiter; the yellow of the breast does not extend as far caudad; there is hardly any red on the rump or upper tail coverts and none on the rectrices, but there is much more red on the under tail coverts. The distribution of the red on the breast and above the eyes is similar on the two specimens.

There is much variation in the intensity of the color of the underparts of Alternate-plumaged males, the orange of some specimens approaching red. I have seen only two that I would characterize as being truly erythristic. One of these, AMNH 54807, is a mummified bird in its first spring (SY), as evidenced by its worn retained remiges and (mostly) retained worn green rectrices. It was salvaged by J. Rowley (who noted on the label that it had been killed by a cat) at Hastings, NY, on 11 May (no year given but obviously many years ago as evidenced by the low AMNH catalogue number). What was probably this specimen was mentioned briefly by Dwight (1900).

The underparts of this male are heavily washed with Flame Scarlet (15), becoming Scarlet (14) anteriorly. The upper and under tail coverts are washed with Flame Scarlet, and the normally white edgings of the tertials are yellow. Like the Great Gull Island bird, this male had replaced one of its immature rectrices. Several rectrices are missing, so the identity of the replaced feather is not certain, but it appears to have been left-1. The tip and base of a definitive central rectrix are normally pale orange; in this bird there is a pinkish tinge to the orange. A second AMNH specimen, no. 521485, a definitively-plumaged (ASY) male, unfortunately lacks any data. Its breast is Chrome Orange (16), heavily washed with Flame Scarlet (15).

On 6 September 1988, Elise Lapham netted and banded a spectacularly erythristic Northern Oriole on Block Island, Rhode Island. She sent me four photographs of the bird. Its wing measured 92 mm, which would be rather small for a male or rather large for a female (compare measurements above and in Pyle *et al.* 1987). The cranium was fully pneumatized, which could conceivably be true of a young of the year (HY) by early September; this is unlikely, judging from the relative amount of pneumatization shown on the labels of September specimens in the CM collection. The rectrices appear too broad to be those of a HY bird, and the wings appear blacker than is typical for HY Northern Orioles. The Bird Banding Office, according to Mrs. Lapham, classified this bird as AHY-U, meaning that it hatched in 1987 or earlier, and was of unknown sex. With only the photograph to go by, this is probably a reasonable age/sex category.

I hesitate to use Smithe colors when comparing a photograph rather than the actual plumage colors. The entire head of this bird, except for yellow lores, is of a rich dark red color, which also mottles the upper breast and extends as a broken line two or three feathers wide about 3/4

of the length of the abdomen. The upper tail coverts are of this same red, whereas the under tail coverts are yellow, washed with red. The dorsum, rather having the feathers dark gray or black edged with greenish as in normal fall orioles, is saturated with the dark red color. As in two of the specimens described above, there is a single erythristic rectrix, which appears to be R-5; it is shorter than normal length for this feather, but it cannot be determined whether it was still growing.

Judging from examples in other species, it seems highly probable that the abnormal reddish plumage developed by these orioles has a dietary basis, but without a chemical analysis of the pigment it would be impossible to track down the source. It is interesting to note, however, that all four of the erythristic orioles with locality data came from a relatively small area of the northeastern United States, from Westchester County, NY, east to Block Island, RI. As all were conceivably migrants that came from elsewhere (and the Great Gull Island bird was certainly a migrant, as the species does not breed on the island), it is possible that all originated from a population from an even more restricted area, where a particular red-pigmented food was available.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to the authorities of the AMNH for permission to borrow their three erythristic specimens, and to Elise Lapham for sending me the photographs of the bird she netted. Helen Hays, Director of the Great Gull Island Project, critically read an earlier draft of this paper; her comments were, as usual, perceptive and helpful. The Great Gull Island specimen (now CM 153636) was collected under New York and Federal permits in my name, and was prepared by W. Parker Cane. My field work on Great Gull Island was supported by the Edward O'Neil Fund of The Carnegie Museum of Natural History. This is Contribution No. 71 of the Great Gull Island Project, American Museum of Natural History.

Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE 1991

A total of 59 reports representing 35 records of birds for 1991, plus one additional report from 1989, was submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee. Three of the 1991 reports are still under review. This represents a slight decrease from the number of reports submitted in 1990.

We reiterate the importance of being as specific as possible about location of sightings in reports. This is especially helpful to include township and county and essential for reports close to New York's boundaries. Also, inclusion of the initial observer's telephone number can be helpful should questions arise. We emphasize that the NYSARC reviews all reports submitted to it, and all are placed in its permanent files at the Laboratory of Ornithology.

The list of species which should be reported to the NYSARC has not been printed in several years. The NYSARC will review reports of:

1. Any species new to New York State. A checklist (lacking only three species which are listed under 3 below) appeared in *The Kingbird* 39:142-156; 1989, and a current checklist is available for purchase from the Secretary of the NYSARC.
2. Any addition to the list of species proven to nest in New York State.
3. Any of the following species found anywhere within New York State: Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Western Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Black-capped Petrel, Mottled Petrel, Herald Petrel, Audubon's Shearwater, White-faced Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown Booby, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, White Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Wood Stork, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Ross's Goose, "Black" Brant, Barnacle Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Smew, Black Vulture, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow Rail, Corn Crake, King Rail, Azure Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Northern Lapwing, Wilson's Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Eskimo Curlew, Whimbrel (white-rumped races only), Eurasian Curlew, Long-billed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Rufous-necked Stint, Little Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Long-tailed Jaeger, Great Skua, South Polar Skua, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Ross's Gull, Ivory Gull, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled

Tern, Sooty Tern, White-winged Tern, Common Murre, Atlantic Puffin, White-winged Dove, Northern Hawk Owl, Burrowing Owl, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Black-billed Magpie, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Northern Wheatear, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Fieldfare, Redwing, Sage Thrasher, Bell's Vireo, "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee, Bachman's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Brewer's Blackbird, "Bullock's" Northern Oriole, Hoary Redpoll

4. The following species from *upstate* New York only:
any species of shearwater or storm-petrel, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Tufted Duck, Common Eider, Black Rail, Purple Gallinule, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Royal Tern, Roseate Tern, Black Skimmer, any species of alcid, Chuck-will's-widow, Western Kingbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow, Savannah "Ipswich" Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle
5. The following species *away from* the Adirondacks:
Spruce Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay
6. The following species for *spring* reports only:
Western Sandpiper (upstate New York only), Baird's Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull
7. Any reports of birds seen out of season at least four weeks before early arrivals or four weeks after late departures, as summarized in John Bull's *Birds of New York State* (1974) or the *Supplement to Birds of New York State* (1976).

The NYSARC reporting form is reproduced in *New York Birders* 22(1); 1993, and also is available upon request from the Secretary of the NYSARC. Reports should be sent to the Secretary:

Todd A. Culver, Secretary
New York State Avian Records Committee
c/o Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

1991 ACCEPTED REPORTS

- Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). 1991-28-A: one in Dead Horse Inlet, Brooklyn, Kings Co., 12,14 December (SS, RM).
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*). 1991-32-A: one off Hawkin's Point, St. Lawrence River, Town of Massena, St. Lawrence Co., 3 November (BD). 1991-33-A: one off Summerville Pier, Rochester, Monroe Co., 29 November (RMck).
- Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*). 1991-6-A,B: one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 18 May (RK, SW). This is the first record for New York.
- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). 1991-31-A: one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 13 May (AM), photographs on file.
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). 1991-25-A: one at Perch River Wildlife Management Area, Town of Orleans, Jefferson Co., 3 November (IM). This bird was shot by a hunter and presently is in a private collection; photographs of the specimen are on file.
- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). 1991-2-A: one, about 4 miles southwest of Mecklenburg, Town of Hector, Schuyler Co., 12 April (JGg).
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1991-8-A: one at Co. Route 57 and Flanders Road at Isthmus to Point Peninsula, Town of Lyme, Jefferson Co., 2 March (RW, JW), photographs on file (Fig. 1).
- Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). 1991-1-A: one off Krumkill Road, Town of New Scotland, Albany Co., 22 March (KA), photographs on file. A photograph of this bird appeared in *American Birds* 45:510; 1991.
- Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). 1991-34-A-E: one Braddock Bay, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 29 November-1 December, 15 December (CC, WG, RS, JBd), photograph on file.
- Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). 1991-12-A: one at Stewart Park, Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 27 February (EB).



Figure 1. Immature Gyrfalcon Town of Lyme, Jefferson Co., New York, 2 March 1991. Photograph by Robert Walker.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). 1991-10-A: one at Dunkirk Harbor, Lake Erie, Town of Dunkirk, Chautauqua Co., 5 January (WD). 1991-20-A: one at mouth of Salmon Creek, Myers Point, Cayuga Lake, Town Park, Town of Lansing, Tompkins Co., 3 September (JGn). This tern is very rare in New York in winter, especially Upstate, and also very infrequent inland in the state away from the Great Lakes.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*). 1991-5-A: one adult at Cedar Beach, Town of Babylon, Suffolk Co., 12 May (AL). 1991-11-A-E: one adult at Salmon Creek, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 19 June (SSk, BK, JS, JBt, AC), photographs on file. The Long Island record is the first of this Eurasian species for New York. An account and photographs of the Salmon Creek bird appeared in *The Kingbird* 42(1):2-4; 1992.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). 1991-16-A: one at Indian Hills Horse Ranch, Town of East Hampton, Suffolk Co., 24 August (JA, SR).

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*). 1991-27-A: one along Co. Route 184 northeast of Pope Mills, Town of Depeyster, St. Lawrence Co., 28 December (RW, JW), photographs on file. This bird persisted until about 22 March 1992, during which time it was seen and photographed by numerous observers (Fig. 2).

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*). 1991-18-A: one at Highland Park, Rochester, Town of Brighton, Monroe Co., 27 May (SB, WG). An exceptional date for a record notable for locality at any season.



Figure 2. Northern Hawk Owl eating a House Sparrow, northeast of Pope Mills, Town of Depeyster, St. Lawrence Co., February, 1992. During this bird's stay, it became accustomed to being fed sparrows offered by the land owner, Don Morley. Digitized frame from video by Paul Richardson.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*). 1991-23-A: one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 13 October (HB).

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). 1991-14-A: one at Verona Beach State Park, Oneida Lake, Town of Verona, Oneida Co., 8 September (DC).

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). 1991-9-A-C: one at Lyons Falls, Town of West Turin, Lewis Co., 19 June-2 July (JT, DC, DD). 1991-19-A: one off Church Road, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 11 May (RS). 1991-22-A-F: one at Stony Kill Environmental Center near Beacon, Town of Fishkill, Dutchess Co., 25-29 October (HM, JK, MK, MVW, EP, OW).

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). 1991-26-A: one at Sunset Bay, Lake Erie, Town of Hanover, Chautauqua Co., 10 October (TG, JGo).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). 1991-4-A: one at State University of New York Nature Preserve, Binghamton, Broome Co., 19 May (GC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). 1991-24-A: one at Gilgo Beach, Town of Babylon, Suffolk Co., 14 May (SP).

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1991-17-B,C: one, two males, one female off Church Road, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 11, 27 May (RS, KG).

1991 REPORT, IDENTITY ACCEPTED, PROBABLE ESCAPE FROM CAPTIVITY

Common Crane (*Grus grus*). 1991-3-A-C: one off Crestwood Road and Route 199, Town of Red Hook, Dutchess Co., 20 April-3 May (WC, BB, CJ). According to a *Poughkeepsie Journal* newspaper article of 28 April, this bird was previously a captive in Delaware County before escaping, and apparently was identified by its owner. The above locality is about 75 miles due east of its apparent origin locality.

1991 REPORT, IDENTITY ACCEPTED, ORIGIN UNCERTAIN

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). 1991-13-A: one on Spring Lake Golf Club, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., 19 January (RK). There are several records of this species, frequently held in captivity, from the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in Quebec, Canada. If wild, this record would be an addition to the list of New York State's birds, but the Committee decided that a natural origin for this individual could not be established with certainty.

1991 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*). 1991-21-A: four to six at Dryden Lake, Town of Dryden, Tompkins Co., 24 October.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1991-7-A: one about 4 miles southwest of Mecklenburg, Town of Hector, Schuyler Co., 13 May.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 1991-30-A: one at Napeague Harbor, Town of East Hampton, Suffolk Co., 31 August.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). 1991-15-A: one at Stewart Park, Cayuga Lake, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 30 August.

1990 RECORD ACCEPTED

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1990-9-A,B: one in Town of Big Flats, Chemung Co., 23-27 April, 15 June (RC, BG), photographs on file. This report originally was not accepted owing to a report and the photographs being temporarily mislaid. Following relocation of the photographs plus the submission of a copy of an original report and a new photograph, the record is accepted.

1989 ACCEPTED REPORT

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*). 1989-16-A: one on Alcove Reservoir, Town of Coeymans, Albany Co., 23 September (KA). This bird probably was brought inland by hurricane Hugo, whose remnants had just passed through the Hudson River valley.

1989 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). 1989-1-A: one at South Dayton, Town of Dayton, Cattaugus Co., 27 January.

CORRIGENDUM

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). 1988-17-A: one adult at Lake Champlain, Port Henry, Town of Moriah, Essex Co., 29 October (NM). This report, listed in the NYSARC report for 1989 (*Kingbird* 41: 241-243; 1991) under **1988 Accepted Reports**, should be *deleted*, as this bird was not observed in New York waters.

Two additions, Reddish Egret and White-winged Tern, were made in 1991 to the New York State List, which now stands at 438 species.

Respectfully submitted, New York State Avian Records Committee

Kenneth P. Able
Robert F. Andrle (Chairman)
Thomas W. Burke
Robert O. Paxton
Barbara J. Spencer

OBSERVERS SUBMITTING RECORDS CITED IN THIS REPORT:

Kenneth Able, John Askildsen, Sue Boettger, Howard Boltson, John Bounds (JBd), Jeff Bouton(JBt), Edward Brinkley, Barbara Butler, Carolyn Cass, George Chiu, Anne Clarridge, Richard Clements, William Cook, Dorothy Crumb, William D'Anna, Karl David, Bruce DiLabio, Dean DiTommaso, Joanne Goetz, Thomas Goetz, John Greenly (JGn), John Gregoire (JGg), Kevin Griffith, William Gruenbaum, Bernard Guirey, Carol Jack, Brian Keelan, James Key, Mary Key, Robert Kurtz, Anthony Lauro, Robert Machover, Helen Manson, Irene Mazzocchi, Robert McKinney, Arthur Morris, Sally Phillips, Eleanor Pink, Scott Rea, Gerald Rising, Starr Saphir, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, Robert Spahn, Jim Throckmorton, Robert Tuttle, Marion Van Wagner, June Walker, Robert Walker, Steve Walter, Otis Waterman.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Use of Conifers as Nest Sites by Yellow Warbler in New York: The Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) usually nests in shrubs, deciduous saplings, and briars (Harrison, H., 1975. *Field Guide to Birds' Nests*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston; Griscom, L. and A. Sprunt, Jr. (Ed.), 1957. *Warblers of North America*. Devin-Adair Co., N.Y). A. C. Bent (1963. *Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers*. Dover Publications, New York) describes nest sites used in eastern United States by over 145 Yellow Warbler and none were located in conifers. Bull (1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday-Natural History Press, New York) lists nest locations of Yellow Warbler in New York State, which include poison ivy, bayberry, bushes, shrubs, and trees but there is no mention of conifers as a nest site choice. Information on Yellow Warbler nests documented for the North American Nest Record Card Program at Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology indicates that of approximately 2300 Yellow Warbler nests studied in the United States, only 23 were built in conifers. Of a total of 583 Yellow Warbler nests recorded in New York State, just five were located in conifers. A summary of these five New York nests is shown in Table 1. These five nestings show that although less than 1% of New York Yellow Warbler nests reported to the North American Nest Card Record Program were located in conifer, in habitat where that is the predominant vegetation, the Yellow Warbler may indeed choose conifers as their nest site.

Appreciation is extended to Pixie Senesac for providing information from the North American Nest Record Card Program.

Elizabeth W. Brooks, 1435 Waterwells Road, Alfred Station, New York 14803

Table 1. New York State Yellow Warbler Nests Located in Conifers.

Year	Height above ground (ft.)	Conifer specified	Young fledged	Location (County)	Documenter
1966	5.0	conifer sp.	3	Wyoming	J. E. Bacon
1974	2.5	pine	5	Oswego	P. M. Lawrence
1979	7.0	yew	4	Oswego	G. R. Maxwell
1982	2.3	yew	0	Allegany	V. M. Pitzrick
1992	3.2	White Spruce	4	Allegany	E. W. Brooks

The Insect Prey of the Laughing Gull: The ability of many gull (Laridae: Larinae) species to exploit ephemeral food sources is well known. One such source is flying insects taken by aerial "hawking." This behavior in North American gulls is reviewed by Pitocchelli and Capainolo (*Kingbird* 40:88-89; 1990). They record Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*) hawking for "gnat-sized or smaller" prey, while Lauro (*Kingbird* 27:87: 1977) reports them feeding on a flying ant swarm. In this note I report Laughing Gull taking much larger flying insects and, related to this, the identity of large insects found in the stomach of a Laughing Gull from a neighboring area. On 11 July 1992, I observed a flock of about 40 Laughing Gull hawking for large insects flying about 10 meters above the dunes at Fort Tilden, near the western end of the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens County, New York. The birds, all adults, pursued the insects, caught them with an audible snap of the bill and swallowed them in flight. I was unable to obtain a specimen of the prey species, which appeared to be a large coleopteran. Recently at the American Museum of Natural History, I dissected a female Laughing Gull (AMNH skeleton # 21244) salvaged on 8 August 1992 from John F. Kennedy International Airport, about seven miles northeast of Fort Tilden. Its stomach contained three Green June Beetles (*Cotinis nitida*), each measuring 24 x 16 mm, one Dogday Cicada (*Tibicen chloromera*) measuring 41 x 18 mm, and several small crab legs. Given that insects comprise about 60% protein and 11% carbohydrate (dry weight) and yield 0.62 calories per gram, compared to 0.56 cal per gm for beef (D. B. Madsen, *Nat. Hist.* 7/89: 22-25, 1989), large insects such as these probably represent a significant, if short-lived, source of nutrition during the summer months.

I thank Louis N. Sorkin, Department of Entomology, American Museum of Natural History for his help in identifying the insects, and Allison V. Andors, Department of Ornithology, AMNH for his comments on the manuscript. Janet Sillings, U. S. Department of Agriculture, kindly donated the Laughing Gull specimen referred to above.

Paul R. Sweet, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024-5192

Three Free-flying Fledgling Osprey: On 10 July the authors were studying passerine birds in Oswego County. We were working beneath the high voltage power lines adjacent to NY Route 69, about halfway between Mexico and Parish. For more than 15 minutes five Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) circled overhead. Two of the birds hovered over the three others for prolonged intervals and called frequently. These better fliers, which we assumed were adults, were able to rise nearly vertically, to circle rapidly, and to land on the high tension supports with speed and grace. The other three birds never hovered. When they flew it did not seem as if they could rise as rapidly. Their landing on the supports was awkward. Twice these presumed youngsters missed the support and stumbled on. We watched the birds for a timed 15 minutes. During this time their new progress took them southward past three sets of power supports, probably a distance of 1500m. This behavior suggests that this was a family group with three recently fledged young. This would seem to be a large number of fledglings from an area of New York with relatively few nesting osprey.

John Confer, Julie Fisher, and Wendy Cruso. Address correspondence to JLC, Biology Department, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY 14850-7278.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Continuing the cold, wet theme from the summer of 1992, this fall generally ran cold, particularly in the western Regions. Only Region 7 specifically noted a warm September. Precipitation levels were average to wet through the season, but below average in Regions 8 and 9 in September and Regions 2, 3, 9, and 10 in October. Snowfall touched Regions 5 and 7 in September and Regions 1 and 9 in October. Hurricane Danielle brought wind and water to Long Island, but few unusual birds there, or elsewhere in the State for that matter. Weather patterns in September and October produced few fronts from the north that pushed migrants south in Regions 1, 2, and 5, but brought many good flights in Regions 4, 6, and 9. November generally was cool, wet, and gray. Wild food crops were generally poor, except for cones, in Regions 1, 2, and 5, but good to abundant in Region 4.

As usual, a mixture of conditions existed across a State this size. Overall, water birds ran average to low in numbers and late in arrival, with many notes of concern for individual species. Raptors fared similarly, though with a few bright spots. Shorebird counts generally were depressed by high water and little habitat, but some excellent records were obtained at the drawn down Whitney Point Reservoir in Region 4. Such reports remind us that shorebirds appear to pass south over a very wide front, and ground records mainly are a function of habitat availability. Gulls and terns were generally low in numbers and late. Passerine numbers also were generally low, and irruptives, including winter finches, were essentially nonexistent. However, most Regions noted an excellent variety of rarities and the season produced a fair number of especially high counts and very late departure dates. Quoting from the Region 10 report, Fall birding has become a sport of chasing rarities rather than enjoying numbers. Specific studies that support these views appear in the October Count summary and banding notes from Region 1; banding, loon counts, and a new hawk watch in Region 3; shorebird notes and the Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch data from Region 4; banding data from Regions 7 and 8; hawk watch data from Regions 9 and 10; and pelagic trips from Region 10.

Focusing on particular groups and species, we can assemble many more interesting details from the Regional reports. It was interesting to

find that only three species were noted by all 10 Regional editors: Peregrine Falcon, American Pipit, and Snow Bunting, a strange mix. Both of our regular loons were noted in fairly good numbers in most Regions, with good Lake Ontario counts and an excellent peak of 1800 from Region 3. Red-necked Grebe was more widely reported than in recent years. Double-crested Cormorant numbers continue high across the State. Mute Swan reached a record inland high of 11 in Region 2. Snow Goose and Brant both were noted in good numbers in several Regions. Wood Duck was noted in six Regions, with a record high count in Region 5. Ducks of special concern included Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, and Canvasback. Scaup, scoters and mergansers were in good shape, but few dark-winged scoters appeared on Lake Ontario and the usual massing of mergansers in Region 6 didn't happen this fall. Eider and Harlequin Duck reports came only from Region 10. Raptors produced late Turkey Vulture reports in several Regions, including late November dates in Regions 6 and 10. Bald Eagle reports were off a bit, very few Rough-legged Hawk appeared, but a very high Golden Eagle total was obtained in Region 4. Low numbers for Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon were the rule. While shorebird counts generally were off, there were some good Lesser Golden-Plover counts, a very late Solitary Sandpiper in Region 9, Hudsonian Godwit in seven Regions mainly in October, Red Knot in five inland Regions, and yellowlegs and dowitcher counts were low. Jaegers were noted in Regions 2, 5, and 10. Interesting gull observations were few until a bonanza arrived in late November on the Niagara River in Region 1. Little Gull numbers remained low for the season at both of its Region 1 and 2 gathering sites, though six noted in Region 7 was a good count there. Tern numbers generally were poor, with the only reports of note a record late Caspian Tern in Region 2 and late Royal Tern in Region 10. The cuckoos received only a single mention across all Regions. A possible late nesting Barn Owl in Region 1, a good echo flight of Snowy Owl reaching all but Region 4, and a **Northern Hawk Owl** in Region 7 were noteworthy. The goatsuckers remain species of serious concern. Ruby-throated Hummingbird farried in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8, with the Region 5 bird captured and placed in a zoo to overwinter. Black-backed Woodpecker was spotted out of its usual haunts only in Region 2.

For many of us, the passerine passage was thin, late, or just plain missing. For most species, too few Regions provided sufficient notes to

detect trends. However, some of the most interesting notes include a State record high of 100+ Eastern Phoebe from Region 10; Common Raven numbers still good, and Carolina Wren numbers remain high across the state. This was an off year for Red-breasted Nuthatch; kinglet counts were good and thrush counts generally poor; there were few reports of waxwings. Northern Shrike had reached six Regions by late October, but there was only one Loggerhead Shrike report, in Region 6. Philadelphia Vireo was noted in nine Regions. Warbler numbers typically were very low, yet Orange-crowned, Pine, Palm, and Connecticut Warbler reports were good and a Yellow-throated Warbler was noted in Region 10. Cape May Warbler numbers were high in Region 4, yet it was unreported in nearby Region 2 and almost so in Region 5. Good sparrow movements were reported in Regions 9 and 10 in mid October, while hundreds of White-crowned Sparrows were spotted in late September in Region 3; American Tree Sparrow arrived during a narrow date range over nine Regions. Blackbird reports of note were few, but a count of 100 Eastern Meadowlark in Region 9, a "**Bullock's**" Oriole was found in Region 10, and a Brewer's Blackbird in Region 5 are particularly interesting. Finally winter finches occurred only in very small numbers scattered across the Regions and through the season.

Once again, the Regional reports contain a host of additional worthwhile tidbits which I feel obliged to note, to induce all of you to read the full reports carefully. See how Region 1's Fall Count compares with other years, and how it impacts departure dates for that Region. Anyone who regularly watches birds at a fixed site can make important contributions to our data documenting departure dates by submitting their observations. The Region 3 report discusses several population study projects undertaken recently; they are worth consideration in other Regions. The Region 5 report provides many peak or average numbers of birds per day; are these numbers interesting or useful to you? The Region 6 report notes as a highlight of the season an increased numbers of reporters, great news for that Region! In the Region 7 report, note goose neckband records, news of the issue of a Crown Point checklist, and many reports of spectacular raven courtship flights. The Region 8 report features the gulls of the Niskayuna landfill and banding data for Purple Finch that suggest poor nesting success. The Region 9 and 10 reports provide good hawk watch summaries, while Region 10 adds many observations of rarities other than raptors spotted at the hawk watch sites.

Fall Departures

1992

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Osprey	1 Nov	8 Oct	5 Nov	5 Oct	2 Oct	23 Oct	4 Oct	29 Sep	30 Oct	20 Oct	15 Oct
Broad-winged Hawk	13 Sep	31 Aug	9 Oct	24 Sep	28 Sep		6 Oct	11 Sep	10 Oct	25 Oct	27 Sep
Black-bellied Plover	31 Oct	31 Oct	1 Nov	19 Oct	2 Nov	24 Oct	1 Nov		10 Nov		30 Oct
Semipalmated Plover		4 Oct	14 Oct	26 Oct	16 Oct	16 Sep	5 Nov		24 Oct	29 Oct	16 Oct
Greater Yellowlegs	3 Nov	31 Oct	1 Nov	26 Oct	14 Nov	28 Oct	14 Nov	8 Nov	5 Nov		4 Nov
Lesser Yellowlegs	17 Oct	19 Oct	21 Nov	26 Oct	15 Oct	23 Oct	1 Nov	16 Sep	1 Nov	18 Oct	22 Oct
Spotted Sandpiper	11 Oct	17 Sep	3 Oct	29 Aug	10 Oct	3 Oct	10 Oct	6 Sep	10 Oct	14 Oct	29 Sep
Sanderling	17 Oct	27 Nov	23 Sep		14 Nov	18 Nov	17 Sep				24 Oct
Semipalmated Sandpiper	11 Oct	31 Oct			26 Sep		20 Sep	16 Sep	10 Oct	16 Oct	5 Oct
Least Sandpiper		7 Oct	3 Oct		3 Oct	27 Oct	24 Sep		5 Oct	14 Sep	3 Oct
Pectoral Sandpiper	17 Oct	23 Sep	25 Oct	7 Nov	14 Nov	28 Oct	20 Oct	26 Oct	1 Nov	29 Oct	25 Oct
Caspian Tern	22 Sep	30 Sep	30 Sep		20 Sep	20 Sep	26 Jul			5 Oct	17 Sep
Common Tern	1 Nov	9 Oct		11 Sep	11 Oct	20 Sep	12 Aug				25 Sep
Black Tern		29 Aug			13 Sep		26 Jul			21 Sep	30 Aug
Chimney Swift	2 Oct	2 Oct	3 Oct	19 Sep	20 Sep	2 Sep	23 Aug	11 Sep	27 Sep	11 Sep	17 Sep
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	14 Sep	30 Sep	31 Oct	5 Oct	20 Sep	20 Sep	27 Sep	20 Oct	29 Sep	14 Sep	30 Sep
Eastern Wood-Pewee	22 Oct	24 Sep	3 Oct	16 Sep	3 Oct	13 Oct	29 Sep	16 Oct	6 Oct		4 Oct
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	12 Sep	9 Sep	30 Sep	12 Sep	14 Sep				14 Sep	5 Sep	13 Sep
Least Flycatcher	20 Sep	24 Sep	27 Sep	5 Sep	13 Sep	12 Sep	2 Sep		12 Sep		14 Sep
Eastern Phoebe	17 Oct	7 Nov	15 Oct	20 Oct	6 Nov	23 Oct	26 Oct	22 Oct	20 Oct	27 Nov	27 Oct
Great Crested Flycatcher	20 Sep	3 Oct	15 Sep	8 Sep	26 Sep	6 Sep	17 Sep	15 Aug	11 Sep		13 Sep
Eastern Kingbird	12 Sep	9 Sep	12 Sep	9 Sep	4 Sep	7 Oct	3 Sep	3 Sep	10 Sep		11 Sep
Tree Swallow	11 Oct		27 Nov	1 Oct	26 Oct	1 Nov	8 Sep	13 Nov	23 Oct	15 Nov	24 Oct
Barn Swallow	13 Oct	24 Sep	2 Sep	6 Sep	13 Sep		5 Sep	7 Sep	5 Oct	7 Sep	15 Sep
House Wren	11 Oct	5 Oct	9 Nov	13 Oct	18 Oct	23 Sep	23 Aug	12 Sep	15 Oct	17 Oct	5 Oct
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2 Sep	9 Sep			30 Sep		7 Sep		15 Sep	6 Sep	11 Sep
Veery	19 Sep	1 Oct	4 Oct	27 Sep	14 Oct	20 Sep	3 Sep		10 Sep	6 Sep	21 Sep
Swainson's Thrush	17 Oct	4 Oct	16 Oct	14 Oct	1 Oct	17 Oct	29 Sep	24 Sep	20 Sep	27 Oct	7 Oct
Wood Thrush	6 Oct	10 Oct	13 Oct	30 Sep	23 Sep	11 Oct	20 Oct	24 Oct	10 Oct		9 Oct
Gray Catbird	3 Nov	28 Nov	24 Oct	29 Oct	18 Oct	17 Oct	20 Sep	9 Nov			26 Oct
Brown Thrasher	11 Oct	14 Oct	12 Oct	7 Oct	20 Oct	21 Sep	14 Oct	11 Sep	20 Nov	9 Oct	11 Oct

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Solitary Vireo	11 Oct	8 Oct	27 Oct	26 Oct	18 Oct	19 Oct	6 Oct	18 Oct	20 Oct	11 Oct	16 Oct
Yellow-throated Vireo		7 Sep	10 Sep	14 Sep	1 Sep	5 Sep	17 Sep	12 Oct			13 Sep
Warbling Vireo	23 Sep	5 Oct	19 Oct	14 Sep	20 Sep	4 Sep	17 Sep		15 Sep	2 Sep	19 Sep
Red-eyed Vireo	27 Sep	2 Oct	3 Oct	27 Sep	14 Oct	12 Sep	27 Sep	3 Oct	10 Oct	18 Oct	2 Oct
Blue-winged Warbler		4 Sep	8 Sep	5 Sep	8 Sep				6 Sep		6 Sep
Tennessee Warbler	1 Oct	25 Sep	2 Oct	16 Sep	30 Sep		25 Sep		1 Oct	23 Sep	26 Sep
Nashville Warbler	28 Oct	5 Oct	8 Oct	4 Oct	30 Sep	7 Oct	2 Oct	27 Sep	20 Sep	5 Oct	4 Oct
Northern Parula			25 Sep	16 Sep	27 Sep		3 Sep	31 Oct	5 Oct	27 Sep	27 Sep
Yellow Warbler	19 Sep	23 Sep	2 Sep	16 Sep	20 Sep	8 Sep	24 Jul	16 Sep	12 Sep	7 Sep	8 Sep
Chestnut-sided Warbler	11 Oct	30 Sep	19 Sep	16 Sep	23 Sep	30 Sep	23 Sep	7 Sep	20 Sep	7 Oct	24 Sep
Magnolia Warbler	2 Oct	30 Sep	4 Oct	27 Sep	18 Oct	12 Sep	26 Sep	24 Sep	20 Sep	4 Oct	28 Sep
Cape May Warbler	10 Sep		26 Sep	2 Oct	14 Sep	1 Sep	5 Sep	7 Sep	20 Sep	18 Oct	18 Sep
Black-thr Blue Warbler	17 Oct	12 Oct	25 Sep	18 Sep	14 Oct	2 Oct	1 Oct		5 Oct	14 Oct	5 Oct
Black-thr Green Warbler	11 Oct	6 Oct	1 Oct	27 Sep	18 Oct	24 Oct	1 Oct	28 Sep	1 Oct	8 Oct	6 Oct
Blackburnian Warbler	11 Oct	3 Oct	12 Sep	8 Sep	24 Sep	23 Sep	17 Sep		20 Sep	14 Oct	24 Sep
Bay-breasted Warbler	3 Sep	25 Sep	27 Sep	16 Sep	20 Sep	1 Oct	17 Sep		30 Sep	20 Sep	21 Sep
Blackpoll Warbler	11 Oct	20 Sep	3 Oct	3 Oct	27 Sep	2 Oct	26 Sep	28 Oct	15 Oct	25 Oct	7 Oct
Black-and-white Warbler	23 Sep	8 Sep	15 Sep	4 Sep	24 Sep		19 Sep		30 Sep	27 Sep	18 Sep
American Redstart	11 Oct	13 Oct	1 Oct	19 Sep	18 Oct	20 Sep	24 Sep	7 Sep	5 Oct	27 Sep	29 Sep
Ovenbird	11 Oct	14 Sep	30 Sep	27 Sep	3 Oct		22 Sep		10 Sep	18 Sep	24 Sep
N. Waterthrush	9 Sep	28 Sep	8 Sep		4 Sep	6 Sep	15 Sep		15 Sep	20 Sep	13 Sep
Common Yellowthroat	11 Oct	24 Oct	6 Oct	14 Oct	8 Nov	12 Sep	20 Sep		20 Oct	18 Oct	11 Oct
Wilson's Warbler	15 Sep	24 Sep	19 Sep	19 Sep	27 Sep	10 Sep	15 Oct		7 Sep	4 Oct	22 Sep
Canada Warbler	11 Sep	24 Sep	20 Aug	15 Sep	13 Sep	5 Sep	2 Sep		25 Sep	6 Sep	10 Sep
Scarlet Tanager	11 Oct	28 Sep	27 Sep	16 Sep	20 Sep	27 Sep	21 Sep	15 Sep	3 Oct	7 Oct	26 Sep
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	13 Oct	28 Sep	2 Oct	17 Sep	24 Sep	19 Sep	9 Sep	28 Sep	2 Oct	20 Sep	25 Sep
Rufous-sided Towhee	11 Oct	18 Oct	16 Oct	2 Oct	28 Oct	12 Oct	30 Oct	13 Oct	30 Nov	19 Oct	21 Oct
Lincoln's Sparrow	6 Nov	18 Oct	24 Oct	4 Oct	18 Oct		12 Sep	1 Oct	25 Oct	18 Oct	14 Oct
White-crowned Sparrow	15 Nov	15 Nov	7 Nov	28 Oct	28 Oct	28 Oct	30 Oct	2 Nov	25 Oct	12 Nov	3 Nov
Bobolink		19 Sep	2 Sep	4 Sep	12 Aug		7 Sep		1 Oct	10 Sep	7 Sep
Northern Oriole	5 Sep	10 Sep	14 Sep	25 Aug	4 Sep	6 Sep	2 Sep	28 Aug	1 Oct	18 Oct	11 Sep

Bold Regional Record Late*Italics* also isolated later report(s).

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	55	-4.0	3.8
Region 2	59	-6.4	2.6
Region 3	58	-0.7	3.1
Region 4	55	-3.5	-5.1
Region 5	62	-4.8	2.5
Region 6	49	1.5	-3.2
Region 7	60	1.2	-9.6
Region 8	38	-5.7	-4.7
Region 9	56	-3.4	4.1
Region 10	50	-12.3	5.3

Let the various Regional editors know what you dislike and, more importantly, like about their reports. Even a little positive feedback goes a long way to maintain the interest and energy Regional [and Highlights - *The Editor*] editors need to keep writing these reports, while the most constructive way to overcome your dislikes is to submit the data, explaining why it is important, which you feel ought to appear in your Regional report.

A note relative to scaup identification in the Region 6 report pushes me to put on my preacher's smock for another line or two. The historical wisdom has been that Greater Scaup is *the* winter scaup of the open Great Lakes. However, locally in Region 2 we have found a large increase in the numbers of Lesser Scaup wintering during the past 5-10 years. This year, for example, one location near Braddock Bay had a flock of about 800 scaup, virtually all Greater, while only a couple of miles east, a flock of about 2000 birds was half or more Lesser Scaup. Similarly, the common winter merganser there has been Common Merganser, yet in recent years over most of Region 2, Red-breasted Merganser now outnumbers it. Common Merganser is found, though in high numbers, at only a couple of spots.

The departure date tables provide relatively little useful information this fall. For many, it seemed that birds departed early. Overall departures were early relative to the 25-year baseline, which unfortunately is biased towards late dates. The departures are not significantly early relative to the past 6 years of data gathered specifically to assemble this information. Without going through the substantial effort to adjust the 25-year and current data for missing Regional dates, the number of early and late departure dates relative to

their average is as expected. Only nine species are more than 2 standard deviations early or late: Eastern Wood-Pewee and Tree Swallow were late and Osprey, Common Tern, Barn Swallow, Tennessee, Yellow, Magnolia warblers, and Bobolink departed early. In the Regional reports we also read that Tree Swallow lingered in numbers in Regions 2 and 3, House Wren set a record late date in Region 3, Sedge Wren set a State late date in Region 2, and a record late Orchard Oriole graced Region 10.

The rarity picture is a full one, at least 44 species reported. Considering only those species of very rare status statewide and not noted earlier, we have **Leach's Storm-Petrel** *from shore* in Region 10; **Ross's Goose** in Regions 1 and 7, **Mississippi Kite** in Region 3, **Swainson's Hawk** in Region 9 and possible **Ferruginous Hawk** in Region 4, **King** and **Yellow Rail** in Region 9, **Ash-throated**, **Scissor-tailed**, and **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** in Region 10, **Gray Kingbird** in Region 8, **Northern Wheatear**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, and **Lark Bunting** in Region 10; **Lark Sparrow** in Regions 1 and 10; and **LeConte's Sparrow** in Regions 1 and 3. From this impressive list, many of which would have made headlines a few years back, my choice for B.O.T.S. is the Ferruginous Hawk in Region 4.

Corrections: In the Spring 1992 Highlights (*Kingbird* 42(3); 1992) on p. 146, Lesser Golden-Plover was not in Region 9 (the line should have read "Regions 2, 3, and 10"); and on p. 147 a (1000+) Red-tailed Hawk day also is inaccurately reported.

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Standard abbreviations; Regional rarities appear in **boldface** in the introduction to each report and in **UPPER CASE** boldface type in the species accounts; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. **In species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; CBC — Christmas Bird Count; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. - Northern; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; W. - Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

A map of New York State showing its 62 counties. Ten specific regions are highlighted with numbers 1 through 10, corresponding to the words in the word search. The regions are: 1. Niagara Frontier (Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Livingston, Yates, and Wayne counties); 2. Genesee (Genesee county); 3. Finger Lakes (Schenectady, Yates, and Wayne counties); 4. Susquehanna (Columbia county); 5. Oneida Basin (Oneida county); 6. St. Lawrence (St. Lawrence county); 7. Adirondack-Champlain (Franklin, Essex, Warren, Hamilton, and Fulton counties); 8. Hudson-Mohawk (Albany, Rensselaer, and Schoharie counties); 9. Hudson-Delaware (Ulster, Dutchess, and Delaware counties); 10. Marine (Rockland, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, and Sullivan counties).

1. NIAGARA FRONTIER
 2. GENESSEE
 3. FINGER LAKES
 4. SUSQUEHANNA
 5. ONEIDA BASIN
 6. ST. LAWRENCE
 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN
 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK
 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE
 10. MARINE

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

GERALD R. RISING

Information from the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo indicates that Regional 1992 fall weather was mixed but not extreme. September's mean temperature, 62°F, was just below normal and its total precipitation, 5.6 inches, was 2.2 inches above normal. That rainfall statistic is misleading in that almost all of the rain fell on three days. Interior areas suffered their first frost on 24 Sep, but the first frost in Buffalo was not until 6 Oct. After a gloomy summer, the near normal amount of sunshine during this month was well received. The October temperature mean, 48°F, was down 4°, but the 2.8 inches of precipitation was near normal. There was an unusually early half inch snowfall in Buffalo on 20 Oct, with southern parts of the region receiving up to 3 inches. November's barely below normal temperature mean of 40°F was just enough to make this the sixth straight month below average. Precipitation was an inch above normal at 4.9 inches. There was an intense lake effect storm from 12-17 Nov that contributed most of the total 14 inches of snow for the month at the Buffalo Airport. As is often the case, the snow depth increased from 6 inches near Lake Ontario to over 30 inches in the snow belt west and south of the city. Still, the most significant feature of this month was its dreariness. The percent of possible sunshine was 17% — compared to 57% in September and 41% in October — and through the last ten days there were only nine minutes when the sun was visible!

There were only eight days with any northerly components to the winds in September, and 4, 11, and 23-25 Sep each followed fronts and, thus, were good candidates for southward movements. Willy D'Anna and Betsy Potter and, separately, Linda Holmes noted many migrants on 12 Sep. Similar winds and fronts seemed not to produce many migrant birds in October or November.

This year the Buffalo Ornithological Society's 57th Fall Count was mounted on 11 Oct by 237 observers. New York sections produced 78,177 birds of 138 species, compared with the prior three year averages of 117,509 and 150. (These counts extend into Canada, and New York sections have been broken out only since 1989.) With the overall numbers down 33%, you expect declines in subgroups and that is exactly the case: waterfowl down 32%, hawks down 25%, shorebirds

down 25%, and passerines down 25%. Dabbling ducks down 32% and divers down 23% reverse the national trend. Among the passerines the greatest drop was in warbler numbers: they were down 63%. Other than Yellow-rumped Warbler, the high count for single species was three and that was achieved by only three species: Nashville, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll Warblers! Those Yellow-rumped Warbler were not an exception to the decline either: the 387 recorded was down 62%. Such single year declines are often the result of bad weather conditions, but the weather on this count day was quite pleasant. The effect this single day of intensive coverage is further evident in the chart summarizing departures.

In 3118 hours (compared to 2428 hours last year) from 1 Aug to 10 Nov, Elizabeth Brooks banded 91 warblers of 17 species (against 148 warblers of 21 species in 1991.) More than two individuals of only five species were ringed: 11 Nashville, 18 Magnolia, 10 Yellow-rumped, 7 Ovenbird, and 16 Common Yellowthroat. Last year six and the year before eight species made this list.

This was a mixed year for fruit and seed crops. In the Southern Tier, Steve Eaton reports hemlock cones abundant but a month and a half late in dropping seed, and White Spruce cones also were abundant. He found White Ash seeds variable and dependent on soil base: bottomland trees good but spotty on upland unglaciated soils. The birds Steve calls "the beechnut guild" — turkeys, grouse, jays, chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers — found a fair crop of these nuts, but no acorns or Black Cherries. A few miles to the east Vivian Pitzrick notes, "A poor mast crop but abundant spruce cones. Dogwood fruits abundant but apples spotty. Good Box Elder fruits but Multiflora Rose, wild grape and ash fruits scarce or nonexistent." In Niagara and Orleans County I found a fair crop of elderberries, wild grape, and apples along the Erie Canal. Almost no winter finches were reported.

It was a quiet fall in the Niagara Gorge that produced very few unusual species among the thousands of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, the hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls and the dozens of Great Black-backed Gulls. It took much searching to find single birds of several expected species: Little, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls. But unexpectedly at the end of November Marlene and Ron Planck identified three extremely rare gulls, and international birders converged on the area. As nearly as can be determined only one of the three exotics, **California Gull**, had made its way across the Niagara River into New

York State by the season's end, but a search is on for records of the other two. A quarter mile makes a big difference here. The only other great rarities located were **Ross's Goose**, **Sandhill Crane**, a **Lark Sparrow** on the 11 Oct Count and, for the second year in a row, a **LeConte's Sparrow**.

Contributors: Mallery & Mary Adams, Becky Albaugh, Robert Andrle, Margaret Barnett, Gordon Bellerby, Paul Benham, Robert Brock, William Broderick, Elizabeth Brooks, Billie Brown, Lee Brown, Lois Buck, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, William Burch, Bruce Chilton, Richard Collins, David Cooper, Wilma Csont, Margaret Cunningham, Roger Daniel, Willy D'Anna, Len DeFrancisco, Steven Eaton, Alice Evans, Brett Ewald, Paul Farver, Tom Harper, Mary Ellen Hebb, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Audrey Horbett, Matthew Hotchkill, Eileen & Robert Hull, David Junkin, Emma Lou King, Dan Klaybor, John Leunsman, Walt Listman, Tom Madison, Henry Mayo, Ollie Mayo, Alice McHale, Bob McNinch, Dan Nicholson, Katherine Palmer, Dave Peterson, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Marlene & Rod Planck, Larry Pline, Betsy Potter, Karen Rader, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Don Roberson, Olga Rosche, Art Schaffner, Ellen Schoop, Bert Schweigert, Lillian Simons, Robert Sommerville, Robert Spahn, David & Debbie Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, John Thill, William Watson, Peter Yoerg.

Abbreviations: ASP — Allegany State Park; BIPB — Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BOSC — Buffalo Ornithological Society Count; CL — Chautauqua Lake; FNSP — Fort Niagara State Park; INWR — Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; LR — Lewiston Reservoir; NF — Niagara Falls; NR — Niagara River; TNP — Tifft Nature Preserve; TWMA — Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr Four Mile Creek SP and T Somerset 31 Oct (BE; WB,WD), only records. **Com. Loon:** arr three Shadigee 19 Sep (WD); max 71 T Somerset and T Yates 25 Oct (DC, WD). **Horned Grebe:** arr 16 BOSC 11 Oct. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr one Mayville 30 Nov (RS). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 824 NF 19 Sep (WW), up from 386 last year. **Am. Bittern:** one Burgeson WS 8 Oct (BA), late; one ALLE 11 Oct (BOSC), only records. **Least Bittern:** last TNP 5 Sep (RA). **Great Egret:** last Carlton Station 16 Oct (WL), only two or three singles seen all fall. **Cattle Egret:** one T Chautauqua 20 Oct (DP). **Green-backed Heron:** last three BOSC 11 Oct. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last NR 21 Nov (BC). **Glossy Ibis:** imm T Hume 10 Oct (AE,

KP!), only report. **Tundra Swan**: arr seven Oak Orchard WMA 25 Oct (WW), max 600 CL 13 Nov (JL). **Mute Swan**: one T Yates (RB, WD!), only record. **Snow Goose**: arr T Porter and T Yates 3 Oct (WD!, BP); max three BOSC 11 Oct. **Ross's Goose**: only one T Randolph 7 Oct (DK, RS!). **Brant**: max 1030 T Somerset 25 Oct (DC, WD). **N. Pintail**: max 155 INWR 29 Oct (AH, DR). **Blue-winged Teal**: last 36 BOSC 11 Oct. **N. Shoveler**: max 28 INWR 18 Oct (DR). **Gadwall**: max 180 INWR 8 Nov (WW). **Am. Wigeon**: max 970 BOSC 11 Oct, four year count high by 41%. **Canvasback**: arr five BOSC 11 Oct; max 3000 NF 6 Nov (WD). **Redhead**: max 115 Mayville 29 Nov (FR). **Ring-necked Duck**: arr five LR 1 Oct (WD); max 203 NF 6 Nov (WD). **Greater Scaup**: arr seven LR 1 Oct (WD); max 2444 11 Oct (BOSC). **Lesser Scaup**: arr 11 LR 13 Sep (WD); max 1711 BOSC 11 Oct. **Oldsquaw**: arr eight FNSP (BE). **Black Scoter**: arr four T Westfield 4 Oct (RS); max 18 Shadigee 31 Oct (WD, WW). **Surf Scoter**: arr and max 12 T Yates 12 Oct (WD). **White-winged Scoter**: arr three T Somerset 12 Sep (WD, BP); max 247 BOSC 11 Oct. **Com. Goldeneye**: arr one FNSP 17 Oct (WD). **Bufflehead**: arr one CL 15 Oct (RS). **Hooded Merganser**: max 1000 CL Nov (JL). **Com. Merganser**: arr 18 Allegheny Reservoir 6 Oct (WW), possibly local breeding birds. **Red-breasted Merganser**: arr six T Somerset 19 Sep (WD). **Ruddy Duck**: arr two BIPB 14 Oct (DR); max 50 CL and one BIPB 7 Nov (TM, TH).

Turkey Vulture: last E Aurora 22 Oct (LH); max 97 BOSC 11 Oct. **Bald Eagle**: two ad, two imm INWR 3-29 Oct (mob). **N. Goshawk**: imm T Porter 31 Oct (BE!). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: max seven BOSC 11 Oct. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr near Onoville 13 Oct (LD, LP). **Merlin**: arr T Somerset 12 Sep (WD!, BP); only other one INWR 11 Oct (WB!). **Peregrine Falcon**: one NF 1 Sep (WW!) and 23 Sep (WD!, BP); one Buffalo 27 Sep (WW!); one LR 27 Nov (WD!); only reports, possibly as few as two different birds. **Wild Turkey**: max 194 BOSC 11 Oct. **Com. Moorhen**: last one TWMA 29 Oct (AH, FR). **Am. Coot**: max 1200 Mayville 21 Nov (LB, FR). **SANDHILL CRANE**: one WYOM 11 Oct (E&RH!). **Lesser Golden-Plover**: max 110 T Carlton 1 Sep (WL); last two T Yates 31 Oct (WD). **Solitary Sandpiper**: solitary record one BOSC 11 Oct. **Hudsonian Godwit**: only one T Yates 11 Oct (WW!), rare fall visitor. **Red Knot**: last T Somerset 12 Sep (WD, BP). **Baird's Sandpiper**: only records one BIPB 1 Sep (FR), four T Clarence 5-6 Sep (LH), one Barcelona Harbor 7 Sep (RS). **Purple Sandpiper**: arr NF 22 Nov (RB, LH). **Red Phalarope**: only record one BIPB 1 Nov (D&DS). **Little Gull**: singles LR 20 Sep (WD), Pt Breeze 29 Oct (WL), NF 6, 7 Nov (WD), only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 2500 CL 30 Nov (RS). **CALIFORNIA GULL:** one Niagara Power Project 29 Nov (M&RP!), first Regional record. **Iceland Gull:** arr NR 15 Nov (WD). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** arr one NF 7 Nov (WD!). **Glaucous Gull:** arr one NR 15 Nov (WD).

Com. Barn Owl: late nesting two T Otto 28 Nov (CR), two failed eggs, one pipped, found in the nest box of this increasingly rare species. **Snowy Owl:** arr T Attica 25 Oct (RD!). **Com. Nighthawk:** max 120 T Kenmore 5 Sep (PB); last T Tonawanda 15 Sep (PH). **Chimney Swift:** last and max 60 BIPB 2 Oct (WW). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** one very late Athol Springs at feeder 17, 20 Oct (WC!). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr E Aurora 19 Sep (LH); max three INWR 26 Sep (WW).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles Golden Hill SF 5 and 12 Sep (BC), quite possibly the same bird. **Horned Lark:** arr one T Yates 3 Oct (WD!, BP); max 200 T Somerset 8 Nov (D&DS). **Bank Swallow:** last T Clarence 12 Sep (WW). **Com. Raven:** continuing Southern Tier observations two Amity L 8 Oct (RP, VP!); one to two T Carrollton 10, 16-30 Sep (SE). **Winter Wren:** arr FNSP 9 Sep (WD). **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr two TNP 27 Sep (WW). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr T Somerset 12 Sep (WD, BP). **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr T Alfred 19 Sep (EB). **Am. Pipit:** arr and max 160 T Porter 17 Oct (WD, BE). **N. Shrike:** arr one TWMA 29 Oct (AH, FR).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr two INWR, two FNSP, one Golden Hills SP all Sep 12 (WW; WD, BP; WD, BP); last NF 1 Oct (WD). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr FNSP 9 Sep (WD!); last two T Lewiston 3 Oct (WD, BP). **Palm Warbler:** arr E Aurora 21 Sep (LH); last two BOSC 11 Oct. **Am. Redstart:** one NF 11 Nov (WD!), straggler. **Mourning Warbler:** last T Alfred 18 Oct (EB!). **Hooded Warbler:** last E Aurora 23 Sep (LH).

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr E Aurora, one T Yates 25 Oct (LH; DC, WD), several earlier reports unconfirmed. **Chipping Sparrow:** last Eden Valley 16-21 Nov (RA!). **Field Sparrow:** last E Aurora 3 Nov (LH). **LARK SPARROW:** one Bond's L 11 Oct (KR!). **Vesper Sparrow:** max and last 12 BOSC 11 Oct. **Savannah Sparrow:** max and last 28 BOSC 11 Oct. **LeCONTE's SPARROW:** one Brockton 8 Oct (PF!). **Fox Sparrow:** arr T Alfred 20 Oct (EB); last ASP 17 Nov (BE). **Dark-eyed Junco:** arr E Aurora, two T Porter 23 Sep (LH; BE). **Lapland Longspur:** arr five T Somerset 12 Oct (TB, WD); max 15+ T Yates 25, 31 Oct (WD). **Snow Bunting:** arr 31 T Clarence 25 Oct (WW); max 300 T Yates 8 Nov (WW). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr ten E Aurora, one ASP both 7 Oct (LH; WW). **Red Crossbill:** only record 14 T W Almond 25 Oct (EB!). **Evening Grosbeak:** none!

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REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The fall migration was described by one area birder as dismal and by another as "a disaster." This reaction partly may have been due to the lack of strong frontal systems so characteristic of the migration here, but it also was partly due to the continuing paucity of migrants under all conditions. September began warm, with some of the best summer like weather of the year. That warmth didn't last the month and, by the end of September, the average temperature was 1.3° below normal at 60.9°F. Precipitation was only slightly above average with a total of 3.02 inches. October started much the same with a warm early part, but below average for the remainder of the month. The average reading for the month of 46.4°F was 5.3° below normal. Precipitation at 1.78 inches was about less than an inch below normal. November was cold and damp. The temperature was 1.7° below the norm at 38.9°F and the precipitation was up slightly at 2.90 inches.

There were very few days that evidenced any real movement of migratory birds. Migrant passerines generally were scarce in comparison to years in the not too distant birding past. The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, under the direction of Elizabeth Brooks, reported the best movements. Other observers reported a lack of warbler species as well as a decreased count of thrushes. There were a few good days for loon migration, and a few grebes also were noted. The waterfowl were scarce. October Brant flights generated some optimism, and large numbers of White-winged Scoter were observed on Lake Ontario for a period of time. Numbers of other waterfowl species notably Canada Goose, Northern Pintail and Canvasback, were down, and Ring-necked Duck, Oldsquaw, and Black and Surf Scoters were scarce. Accipiters were well reported, but the falcon sightings were down. Few Peregrine Falcon were reported this fall. Rough-legged Hawk failed to move into the area in any numbers. High lake levels reduced shorebird habitat and, therefore, there was a lack of shorebirds, with Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Red Phalarope the only species of note. Many observers noted the lack of gulls. The expected flight of Bonaparte's Gull was lackluster, and the only highlight was sightings of Glaucous Gull. Terns fared much the same, with reduced reports of migrant Common Tern and only a smattering of Forster's Tern sightings. A late Caspian Tern at Ontario Beach in Charlotte was noteworthy.

Early Snowy Owl reports from several locations hinted of another Snowy Owl winter, but Short-eared Owl had not reached substantial numbers by the season's end. Once again Northern Saw-whet Owl was reported from Penfield during the season. There were few reports of numbers of migrating Common Nighthawk and the maximum of 75 is a far cry from not too distant seasons; one seen during the second half of October was notable. A real puzzler for the season was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird that tarried until mid November. It survived some cold nights during the month. Also of interest were a group of Tree Swallows that took up residence in Greece. As the season drew to a close, at least 42 were still working Round Pond in the late afternoon. Single birds would be unusual, but a group of this size is unprecedented.

Not much can be said about the passerine migration. Few flycatchers and thrushes were reported. Some observers reported only single digit counts of warbler species, so there weren't many fall warblers about which to be confused. The best were Orange-crowned and Connecticut Warblers. Sparrow numbers were mediocre with only a few reports of good numbers from Hogan Point and Beatty Point in Greece. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was once again reported from these locations, and a **Clay-colored Sparrow** report came from Highland Park in Rochester. Some early flights of Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur were noted. Migrant finches were represented by a scattering of Pine Siskin reports and a single Evening Grosbeak. There were few rarities. Of note was the *Plegadis ibis* found by Mike Davids in Hamlin on 17 Oct, and which remained there until 19 Oct. A **Gyrffalcon** sighted and documented by Bob Marcotte in Hamlin on 24 Oct was not as cooperative as the ibis and was only seen that one day. **Black-backed Woodpecker** was sighted at two different locations during the season.

Contributors: Sue Boettger, Elizabeth Brooks, Jean Bruns, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Betty Buyck, Gary Chapin, Julie Claffey, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Frank & Bob Dobson, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Jon Dunne, Roy Grau, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Groshaus, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Mrs. Elibu Hedges, Rita Hefers, Diane Henderson, Polly Keating, Gary Klue, Tom Lathrop, John Lehr, Gerry Leubner, Joseph Lipinski, Bob Marcotte, Terry Mason, Robert McKinney, Nancy Miller, Brian Mongi, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Ruth Porter, Bill & Betty Powell, Martha Reinhardt, Dee Robinson, Dominic Sherony, Ruth Shone, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy Spahn, Evan Speck, Paul & Jeff Spindler, David & Grace Strong, William Symonds, Mike Tetlow, Paul & Mary Jean Weld, and Kinsley Whittum.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point, Greece; HB - Hamlin Beach; HPt - Hogan Point, Greece; IB - Irondequoit Bay; MPd - Mendon Ponds; SC - Salmon Creek, Greece; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario w Rochester).

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr two HB 18 Oct, max 165 HB 18 Nov. **Com. Loon:** arr HB 2 Sep, max 800 HB 18 Oct. **Horned Grebe:** arr HB 30 Sep. **Red-necked Grebe:** max four HB 18 Oct (CC). **Green-backed Heron:** last MPd 23 Oct, late. **PLEGADIS IBIS:** *intro*. **Mute Swan:** max 11 SC 21 Nov, high total. **Brant:** arr HB 17 Oct, max 3500 Sodus 25 Oct. **Greater Scaup:** arr three HB 19 Sep. **Lesser Scaup:** arr HB 26 Sep. **Oldsquaw:** arr HB 2 Sep. **Surf Scoter:** arr three HB 26 Sep. **Com. Goldeneye:** arr one HB 19 Sep. **Bufflehead:** arr one HB 4 Oct. **Hooded Merganser:** max 125 SC 18 Nov.

N. Goshawk: one Webster 26-30 Sep (JC), only report. **Merlin:** one Brighton 20 Sep (NM), scarce this fall. **Peregrine Falcon:** one Hamlin 14 Nov (RO'H), only report. **GYRFALCON:** *intro*. **Com. Moorhen:** last Greece 22 Oct. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** max 118 WL 3 Sep (MD). **Solitary Sandpiper:** last Hamlin, Brighton 7 Sep. **Upland Sandpiper:** last Hamlin 12 Sep. **Whimbrel:** max three WL 1 Sep (MD). **Ruddy Turnstone:** last IB 19 Nov. **Red Knot:** last CH 4 Oct (CC, NM). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr Hamlin 7 Sep. **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr CH 2 Sep. **Dunlin:** arr CH 29 Sep, last Summerville 14 Nov, late. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** one Pt Breeze 3 Sep (MD), one Carlton 8 Sep (CC), few reports this season. **Red Phalarope:** one CH 10 Sep (RS), one HB 27 Oct (CC,WS), unusual in Region. **Pomarine Jaeger:** one HB 25 Oct (WS), only report. **Parasitic Jaeger:** one HB 10 Oct (mob), one HB 18 Oct (CC), two HB 8 Nov (WS), about normal total. **Glaucous Gull:** singles HB 2 Nov (WS) and 8 Nov (DS), CH 9 Nov (KG) and 27 Nov (MD), fairly good total. **Black-legged Kittiwake:** singles HB 17 Oct (DS,GC) and 6 Nov (WS), tough to find in recent years. **Caspian Tern:** one CH 26-30 Nov (MD, RMc), very late. **Forster's Tern:** one WL 12 Oct, one HB 26 Oct, poor year.

Snowy Owl: one Sodus 25 Oct (mob), one Greece 31 Oct (ROs), early. **Short-eared Owl:** max four Retsof 16 Nov, scarce. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** singles Penfield 23 Oct (RMc) and 25 Nov (RMc). **Com. Nighthawk:** max 75 Greece 5 Sep (RD, FD), last Greece 21 Oct (KG), late. **Chimney Swift:** max 40 Rochester 28 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** female lingered Parma to 17 Nov. **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER:** one Pittsford 30 Sep (RSh); one Honeoye Falls 4-5 Oct (P&MJW).

Willow Flycatcher: last BPt 7 Sep. **Purple Martin:** last two Durand-Eastman P 7 Sep. **Tree Swallow:** *intro*. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last Hamlin 19 Sep. **Bank Swallow:** max 4100 Hamlin 13 Sep. **Sedge Wren:** one HPt 27 Nov (MD [*details?* - *The Editor*]), very late, only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** last Greece 10 Nov. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last two Manitou 6 Oct. **Hermit Thrush:** arr Greece 23 Sep; max 22 Manitou 22 Oct (EB), good total. **Am. Pipit:** last HB 10 Nov (DS , JD), late. **N. Shrike:** arr Hamlin 29 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: last one Greece 28 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler :** one BPt 3 Oct (CC), one BB 4 Oct (SS). **Pine Warbler:** last one HB 12 Oct. **Palm Warbler:** last Manitou 1 Oct. **Connecticut Warbler:** one BB 2 Sep (MD , CC), one Manitou 14 Sep (EB), one Greece 2 Oct (MD), good year. **Hooded Warbler:** last WL 8 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last Sodus 1 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr four Kendall 24 Oct. **Chipping Sparrow:** last Pittsford 1 Nov. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Highland P 28 Sep (CC, JB). **Field Sparrow:** last two Greece 6 Nov. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** last BPt 20 Oct (MD), late. **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** one BPt 7 Sep (KG), two HPt 2 Oct (MD). **Fox Sparrow:** last HPt 28 Nov, late. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last Springwater 15 Nov. **Lapland Longspur:** arr eight HB 12 Oct. **Snow Bunting:** four HB 18 Oct, max 1200 Hamlin 31 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird:** last three Greece 14 Nov. **Pine Siskin:** arr 20 Hamlin 19 Sep. **Evening Grosbeak:** arr MPd 29 Oct.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. R. SMITH AND C. K. MELIN

After one of the coldest, wettest summers on record, birders were greeted by Regional weather patterns that brought near average temperatures and precipitation for the month of September. Less rain than usual but substantially colder than average temperatures characterized October, with a return to cold, wet weather in November. October temperatures averaged 4°F colder than normal for the Region and November precipitation was one to two inches above average.

Noteworthy migratory movements coincided with the passage of major cold fronts and strong northwesterly winds on 12, 22, 23, and 30 Sep, and on 25 and 31 Oct. At their banding station, Kestrel Haven

Farm, near Burdette, John and Sue Gregoire reported "hundreds" of White-crowned Sparrow on 23 Sep, with none seen the following day. The birds arrived ahead of a strong cold front passing across the Region from the northwest and departed as the front crossed our Region. A major movement of 339 Broad-winged Hawk occurred over Mount Pleasant on 12 Sep. On 30 Sep, Bernie Guirey counted 2470 Canada Goose in two hours migrating over the Mount Pleasant Hawk Watch, near Ithaca, ahead of a major cold front that brought 40 mph winds across Lake Ontario on 29 Sep. And significant flights of Common Loon and Brant occurred over Cayuga Lake on 25 Oct (684 loons, 1475 Brant) and 31 Oct and 1 Nov (nearly 1800 loons), ahead of similar cold fronts.

In addition to the usual fall birding activities, many observers added a project oriented flavor to their activities. John and Sue Gregoire continued banding activities at Kestrel Haven Farm, where they have been banding birds during migration since 1986. They banded 1726 birds of 84 species during 83 days of operation this fall. Bill Evans, with help from several members of the Cayuga Bird Club, made an intensive effort to count migrating Common Loon at Taughannock Falls State Park on the west shore of Cayuga Lake. A total of 4942 Common Loon was counted between 25 Oct and 18 Nov, with most flights occurring between 7 and 9 AM each day. And Bernie Guirey led another fall of hawk counts from the Mount Pleasant Hawk Watch, near Ithaca, with 14 species and nearly 1000 individuals counted during September, October, and November. All these projects, which focused on counting or banding a number of species at specific locations, and on keeping careful track of the effort involved, provide insights into the magnitude and timing of fall migratory movements through our Region. Hopefully, we will see more of this kind of project oriented bird study in the future.

The most noteworthy observations from the Region were **Eared Grebe**, **Mississippi Kite**, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Forster's tern**, **Acadian Flycatcher** and **LeConte's Sparrow**, and a good variety of other hard to find species were reported. Common Raven also continues to be reported from the Elmira area, with additional observations from near Naples this season. A few Snowy Owls began to appear in the region in mid November. There were few reports of Short-eared Owl and Northern Shrike, and virtually no reports of winter finches, including Evening Grosbeak, from the Region. Several reports of Carolina Wren came from ravines along lake shores throughout the Region.

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Abbreviations: CHWMA - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; CL - Cayuga Lake; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; KHF - Kestrel Haven Farm (banding station of John and Sue Gregoire); MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MtP - Mount Pleasant, TOMP; MPt - Myers Point, e shore of Cayuga L; QCM - Queen Catharine Marsh, south end of Seneca L; SF - Seneca Falls; SL - Seneca Lake; StP - Stewart Park, s end of Cayuga L; TFSP - Taughannock Falls State Park, w shore of Cayuga L; WG - Watkins Glen.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** one CL 30 Oct and 5 Nov, one n end SL 15-25 Nov. **Com. Loon:** *intro.* **Red-necked Grebe:** one CL 6 and 9 Nov. **EARED GREBE:** one CL at TFSP 3 Nov (WE, NYSARC). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 261 in 3 hours over MtP 20 Oct. **Am. Bittern:** one MtP 11 Sep, one MNWR 4 Oct. **Least Bittern:** one MtP 11 Sep. **Great Egret:** one MNWR through 8 Nov. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one MNWR 3 Oct. **Tundra Swan:** max 177 MNWR 29 Nov. **Brant:** two StP 4 Oct, 1475 TFSP 25 Oct (WE), 225 TFSP 30 Oct (WE), one StP 8 Nov, eight s end SL 1 Nov; imm s end SL throughout Nov (JB); more than usual. **Canada Goose:** major movement (2470 in 2 hours over MtP) WG and MtP 30 Sep. **Wood Duck:** max 20 QCM 1 Oct. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one MNWR 4 Oct-28 Nov. **Canvasback:** max 3000 MNWR 21 Oct. **Redhead:** max 2500 MNWR 21 Oct. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 2000 MNWR 21 Oct. **Lesser Scaup:** max 2500 CL 29 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** two MNWR 15 Nov, one MNWR 21 Nov; max 30 CL 7 Nov. **Black Scoter:** two males StP 6-7 Nov, seldom reported. **Surf Scoter:** female CL 7-9 Nov, seldom reported. **White-winged Scoter:** 25 sightings of 1-24 individuals CL 4 Oct-15 Nov. **Ruddy Duck:** two WG 18-23 Nov, seven MNWR 21 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: total 111 MtP Sep-Nov. **Osprey:** last 5 Nov, late. **MISSISSIPPI KITE:** one King Ferry 9 Sep (KD, NYSARC), first Regional report. **Bald Eagle:** four MNWR throughout period; total three MtP Sep-Nov; imm Elmira 12 Sep. **N. Harrier:** total 50 MtP Sep-Nov. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** total 98 MtP Sep-Nov. **Cooper's Hawk:** total 14 MtP Sep-Nov. **N. Goshawk:** total two MtP Sep-Nov. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** total 13 MtP Sep-Nov. **Broad-winged Hawk:** total 423 MtP Sep-Oct, max 339 on 12 Sep, last 9 Oct, late. **Red-tailed Hawk:** total 177

MtP Sep–Nov. **Golden Eagle**: total five MtP Sep–Nov, seldom reported. **Am. Kestrel**: total 32 MtP Sep–Nov. **Merlin**: one Elmira 17 Oct. **Peregrine Falcon**: one Elmira 18 Sep, one MtP Sep–Nov. **Virginia Rail**: one MNWR 3 Oct. **Black-bellied Plover**: three near SF 3 Oct; last near Elmira 1 Nov, late. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: six MNWR 4 Oct, 65 near Village of Cayuga 24 Sep (AB), high max. **Semipalmated Plover**: 20 near SF 11 Oct. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: last 21 Nov, late. **Solitary Sandpiper**: one MPt 17 Sep. **Hudsonian Godwit**: two MNWR 9 Oct (KD, WE), one Canoga Bait Pds near SF 19–25 Oct (FB, WE). **Ruddy Turnstone**: three MPt 17 Sep. **Red Knot**: one MNWR 23 Sep. **Sanderling**: one MPt 17 Sep, 10 MNWR 23 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one MNWR 14 Sep–31 Oct, two MPt 3 Nov. **Baird's Sandpiper**: reported throughout Sep, last MNWR 4 Oct. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 55 MNWR 12 Oct, 20–25 near SF 25 Oct. **Dunlin**: 40–50 MNWR 9–30 Oct, three near SF 25 Oct. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one MNWR 18 Sep, two MNWR 4 Oct. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: six MNWR 4 Oct. **Com. Snipe**: one QCM throughout Oct. **Red-necked Phalarope**: one MNWR 3–4 Oct and four on 9–12 Oct. **Wilson's Phalarope**: one MNWR 6 Sep. **Bonaparte's Gull**: three MNWR 3 Oct. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one MNWR mid to late Oct, two ad MNWR 10 Oct, two StP 20 Nov, more than usual. **Caspian Tern**: max 12 StP 12 Sep; last 30 Sep, late. **FORSTER'S TERN**: one MNWR 29 Sep (WB).

E. Screech-Owl: only report one near Lansing 19 Sep. **Snowy Owl**: scattered singles widespread after mid Nov. **Short-eared Owl**: two FLNF 7 Nov. **Whip-poor-will**: one near Ithaca early Sep (J. Confer). **Com. Nighthawk**: 50 Southport 4 Sep, 12 Elmira 5 Sep, only reports. **Chimney Swift**: last 3 Oct, late. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: last 31 Oct, very late. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one near Benton Center 18 Oct (FB), one MtP 22 Oct (WE), now seldom reported.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 30 Sep, late. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: one CHWMA 12 Sep (NB). **Tree Swallow**: last 13 Keuka L 27 Nov, very late. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: last 28 Oct. **Com. Raven**: two T Caton 3 Sep (DC), one near Naples mid-Oct (FB). **House Wren**: last 9 Nov, very late. **Veery**: last 4 Oct, late. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one near Ithaca 24 Sep, two near Elmira 25 Sep. **Brown Thrasher**: last 12 Oct, late. **Am. Pipit**: arr MtP 23 Sep, 50 Southport 25 Oct. **N. Shrike**: one MtP 22 Oct, one FLNF 28 Nov, only reports.

Solitary Vireo: last 27 Oct, very late. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one T Caton 12 Sep, one banded KHF 30 Sep. **Warbling Vireo**: last 19 Oct, very late. **Blue-winged Warbler**: last 8 Sep, late. **Golden-winged Warbler**: one CHWMA 19 Sep, only report. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one banded KHF 30 Sep (J&SG), only report. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: total 99

banded KHF (J&SG); last 31 Oct. **Black-and-white Warbler**: only one report. **Am. Redstart**: last 1 Oct, late. **Connecticut Warbler**: one CHWMA 19 Sep (NB).

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 17 Oct. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one Southport 4 Oct. **Henslow's Sparrow**: one Southport 23 Sep. **LECONTE'S SPARROW**: one MPt 3 Oct (KD, NYSARC). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: last 24 Oct, late. **White-crowned Sparrow**: *intro.* **Lapland Longspur**: three-15 near King Ferry 20-27 Oct. **Snow Bunting**: arr and max 28 MtP 25 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird**: three MNWR 8 Nov. **Red Crossbill**: one CHWMA 22 Nov, only report. **Pine Siskin**: none. **Evening Grosbeak**: one CHWMA 22 Nov, only report.

Exotics: **Ringed Turtle-Dove**: one still visiting Elmira feeder.
449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, New York 13068

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Fall 1992 was a little colder and wetter than normal and generally lacked strong weather fronts. Both September and November temperatures averaged a degree colder than usual. October, however, was very chilly; its mean temperature of 44.5°F was 4.5° below normal. Each month had more precipitation than normal. September's rainfall was only 0.20 inches above the usual 3.32 inches. October precipitation exceeded the norm by half an inch, while November precipitation measured 3.78 inches, three-quarters of an inch over average. Most of the precipitation fell as rain, and only 6.30 inches of snow was officially reported for the season. The first snowfall dusted the hills on 1 Oct in northern areas of the Region. Wild foods were abundant. Trees and shrubs, evidently fortified by a good summer growing season, really held onto their seeds and berries. Often fruits drop and rot on the ground before the birds arrive. Evergreens were laden with cones.

Water levels were high everywhere through most of the period, as they had been all summer. The only exception was Whitney Point Reservoir, where the water level was lowered in mid October to permit bridge repairs according to Harriet Marsi. That event had as much impact on the fall reports as did the weather. Extensive mudflats stretched around the reservoir. Pied-billed, Horned and Red-necked Grebe all were seen for the first time since 1987. Black-crowned Night-Heron and Brant were present for the fourth straight fall, after absences

of 11 years. Fifteen species of duck is as good as this Region gets. Shorebirds had been written off for lack of habitat. Then Jay Lehman stopped at Whitney Point Reservoir on 18 Oct, and Elva Hawkin on the following day. Each spotted an **Hudsonian Godwit**, probably a Regional first (available records only date back to 1979). Jay tallied three Black-bellied Plover, among the more common shorebirds a Regional rarity not reported in at least 14 years. The next day Elva 11 of these plovers and counted an unprecedented 200 Dunlin. On 26 Oct, Harriet, Bruce Bozdos and Florence Linaberry added Semipalmated Plover, another Regional rarity, and an uncommon Lesser Yellowlegs. Finally, on 7 Nov Jay returned to find two **White-rumped Sandpiper**, believed to be another Regional first. For Jay it ended a long search in Region 4 for the late fall migrants. "What first got my attention", he wrote, "was the call, a thin single 'jeet'" (remembered from shorebirding in Delaware before he moved to Upstate New York). "They were huddled with a Pectoral, on a broken up roadbed, invisible to me until I 'kicked' them up as I walked the road. I confirmed the birds by seeing the dark tail and white rump above it as they flew."

As many as 600 Canada Geese a day migrated through the the Region periodically between 29 Sep and 16 Nov. One large flock in the Tioga area, however, didn't leave. The flock has been resident there the last few years. Jeannette Baldwin believes this dynasty may have started about six years ago. Her brother, who lives near the Baldwins, had bought a pair of young Canada Geese, their wingtips crushed to prevent flying, for his 23 acre lake. When old enough to mate, however, the gander chose a wild Canada Goose who had come into the lake. Together the gander and his "wild" goose raised five goslings. "She coaxed the male to fly with her as she taught the young, but in vain. Finally, in late October, she took off with the young, leaving the gander to call mournfully for several days. When she returned with the young the next March, it took several hours before the gander forgave his wandering mate." The pattern repeated itself another year, but the third winter, the female stayed. "This summer there were five nests on the dike at the lake and we are sure the 125 geese this fall are all descendants of the original pair."

Cheers were due observers at the Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch. Their season's total of 123 Golden Eagles tied the species' fall migration record for eastern North American hawk watch sites. The record, of many years standing, had been the sole property of the Wagner's Gap, PA, site. For the Oneonta group, the 1992 total of Golden Eagles was double the number seen last year, with a one-day record of 19 birds on 27 Oct. The

1992 total for all raptors at Franklin Mt. was 3589 birds, according to Ron Milliken. It was the best year yet with higher counts for all hawks, especially Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks, all nearly double last year's figures. A Ferruginous Hawk, very rare in eastern U.S., was reported 27 Nov but no documentation was submitted.

Migration of most passerines was barely noticeable. Most birds just trickled through and were gone about a week earlier than usual. Some good field work, however, especially in CHEN, located some uncommon species and better than average numbers for some less common species. Noteworthy was a rarely seen Long-eared Owl "harassed by Blue Jays" spotted in Homer by John Gustafson. Very little flocking of Eastern Bluebird and very low counts of Hermit Thrush indicate only fair to poor breeding success for those species. Most warbler numbers were low but 12 Cape May Warbler were counted, nine of them by the Chenango Bird Club on their 12 Sep field trip. This might ease concern for that species, at least momentarily. Of the 25 warbler species reported, Northern Parula, Prairie, Pine and Orange-crowned are often missed. High counts were reported for Lincoln's Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow, but figures for others of the species were low to average. Despite the abundant cone supply, winter finches weren't rushing to be enjoyed. Even American Goldfinch was scarce.

The fall total of 180 species reported ties the record high of 1990. Rarities included **Hudsonian Godwit** and **White-rumped Sandpiper**, believed to be the first seen in Region 4, Semipalmated Plover and Black-bellied Plover and Long-eared Owl. On the minus side, missing were Common Loon (probably for the first time) American Wigeon, both cuckoo species, Northern Shrike and Evening Grosbeak!

Congratulations are extended to Region 4's Marie Petuh for her book *Broome Birds & Byways*, which has just been published. It is a valuable field guide to some 75 birding areas, most within a 30-mile radius of Binghamton. The Cortland County Bird Club alerts observers to major developments they plan at the newly established Lime Hollow Nature Center in Corlandville. "Birding possibilities are probably the best in Cortland County," their newsletter claims. Financing will be from sale of a land tract in Virgil which had been given to the club 20 years ago.

Observers: Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Les Bemont, Reynolds Bennett, Bruce Bozdos, Chad Covey, Chenango Bird Club, Ingrid Casper, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, C. Eastwood, John Fritz, John Gustafson Elva Hawken, Spencer Hunt, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Andy Mason, Dave Messineo, Ron Milliken, Susan Moran, Marie Petuh, Steve Rice, Joe Sedlacek, Tom and Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Donald Windsor, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: ChenL - Chenango Lake; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; FMHW - Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch; NNM - North Norwich Marsh; OnRes - Oneonta Reservoir; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** one WPR 7 Nov (JL), often missed. **Pied-billed Grebe:** singles Mead Pd 25 Oct and White's Pd 7 Nov (JL) ; one WPR 30 Nov (MDv), all late. **Horned Grebe:** two WPR 29 Nov (JL, CE) only report. **Red-necked Grebe:** two WPR 7 Nov (JL), only report. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max seven Chenango R between Chenango Bridge and Port Crane 10-17 Sep (mob); also two TIOG 12 Sep. **Am. Bittern:** one Willett 16 Sep (EH), often missed. **Great Blue Heron:** widespread to 16 Nov. **Great Egret:** one BROO 4 Sep (HM, BB, FL), not seen every year. **Green-backed Heron:** good numbers CHEN, OTSE; last 28 Sep. **Black-crowned-Night Heron:** *intro*. **Tundra Swan:** only one TIOG Nov (SH). **Snow Goose:** single REEC 2 Oct; small flock TIOG Nov, sparse. **Brant:** *intro*. **Wood Duck:** max 16 BROO 4 Sep; last 30 Nov, late. **Green-winged Teal:** four reports BROO Oct, Nov, last 6 Nov. **Am. Black Duck:** max seven WPR 7 Nov and OPM 13 Nov. **Blue-winged Teal:** only report six REEC 18 Sep. **Gadwall:** singles REEC 18 Sep; Hunts Pd SP 27 Sep and BROO 2 Oct, often missed. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 10 ChenL 13 Nov, two there 8 Nov, only reports. **Greater Scaup:** three WPR 7 Nov, two ChenL 22 Nov, only reports. **Lesser Scaup:** two OnRes 13 Nov, one ChenL 22 Nov, only reports. **Black Scoter:** only report WPR 7 Nov. **Com. Goldeneye:** only report BROO 20 Nov. **Bufflehead:** max 17 WPR 7 Nov, three other reports. **Hooded Merganser:** one FHNC 29 Sep; two CHEN 25 Oct; two OnRes 1 Nov; two BROO 9 and 20 Nov, scarce. **Com. Merganser:** max 50 WPR 7 and 22 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser:** single White's Pd 8 Nov, often missed.

Turkey Vulture: FMHW total 100, max 32 on 17 Oct. **Osprey:** FMHW total 75, max nine 19 Sept. **Bald Eagle:** FMHW total 12, five other reports. **N. Harrier:** FMHW total 79, record high; best flights late Oct, early Nov. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** FMHW total 435, max 96 on 17 Oct. **Cooper's Hawk:** FMHW total 27. **N. Goshawk:** FMHW total 23. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** FMHW total 69, max 11 on 31 Oct. **Broad-winged Hawk:** FMHW total 676, max 113 on 11 Sep. **Red-tailed Hawk:** FMHW total 1727, max 419 on 25 Oct. **Rough-legged Hawk:** FMHW total five; three others Nov. **Golden Eagle:** *intro*. **Am. Kestrel:** FMHW total 84 all Sep-Oct. **Merlin:** FMHW total seven, last 9 Nov, only reports. **Peregrine Falcon:** FMHW total three; one Norwich 6 Sep (JL, DW). **Ring-necked Pheasant:** max

three OPM 22 Oct (MD), probably recently released. **Ruffed Grouse**: "common" TIOG Oct-Nov (JS), scarce elsewhere. **Wild Turkey**: good counts Nov. **Virginia Rail**: only report Upper Lisle 26 Sep (T&NT). **Am. Coot**: singles BROO 26 Oct and OnRes 28 Oct, not seen every year. **Black-bellied Plover**: *intro*. **Semipalmated Plover**: *intro*. **Killdeer**: max 29 Glimmerglass SP 12 Sep (AM), scarce. **Greater Yellowlegs**: seven scattered singles, scarce. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: only one WPR 26 Oct. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr OPM 1 Sep; two NNM 4 and 9 Sep; one Sherburne 6 Sep, scarce. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: *intro*. **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER**: *intro*. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: four WPR 18 Oct; one 7 Nov (JL), only reports. **Dunlin**: *intro*. **Com. Snipe**: singles OTSE 1 Sep, BROO 26 Oct, only ones. **Am. Woodcock**: max 17 BROO 17 Nov (HM,BB,FL); seven Morris 30 Oct (JF), high counts. **Bonaparte's Gull**: singles OPM 27 Nov; WPR 29 Nov, uncommon. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 200 Glimmerglass SP 12 Sep. **Herring Gull**: max 10 WPR 29 Nov. **Great Black-backed Gull**: one Dean's Pd 27 Nov; imm WPR 29 Nov, uncommon. **Com. Tern**: singles CHEN 7 Sep; Cole P 9 Sep; WPR 16 Sep, often missed.

Great Horned Owl: max three, nine widespread reports. **Barred Owl**: one Triangle 27 and 29 Sep; two BROO Oct-Nov. **Long-eared Owl**: *intro*. **Com. Nighthawk**: 28 Binghamton 4 Sep flying NW to SE (SR), good count, only report. **Chimney Swift**: max 11 Norwich 6 Sep; daily Binghamton to 19 Sep. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Perkins Pd CHEN 16 Sep (EH), uncommon. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: singles REEC Sep and TIOG through period, low. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: last two Norwich 3 Oct. **N. Flicker**: last Norwich 22 Nov. **Pileated Woodpecker**: five to seven/month, good.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles Norwich 6 Sep and NNM 8 Sep, only third fall in last nine. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max three Norwich 5 Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: two Norwich 12 Sep (CBC), unusual. **Alder Flycatcher**: only report BROO 14 Sep (HM). **Willow Flycatcher**: only report CHEN 16 Sep (EH). **"Traill's" Flycatcher**: banded Vestal 19 Sep (GK). **E. Phoebe**: max nine (five y) Oneonta 11 Sep. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max two NNM 4 Sep. **E. Kingbird**: max three OPM 1 Sep. **Horned Lark**: arr WPR 18 Sep; max 30 Millbrook Res CHEN 31 Oct (JL), only reports. **Tree Swallow**: max 50 CHEN 6 Sep and OPM 1 Oct, high compared to recent years. **Cliff Swallow**: only one Norwich 4 Sep. **Barn Swallow**: max 30 Norwich 4 Sep. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max seven Sep. **Carolina Wren**: widespread. **House Wren**: max three, eight Sep reports, one Oct, good. **Winter Wren**: last BROO 4 Oct. **Marsh Wren**: singles two CHEN sites 4 and 27 Sep, uncommon. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr Norwich 12 Sep (CBC). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: one to four

widespread to 14 Nov. **E. Bluebird**: *intro*. **Swainson's Thrush**: daily Binghamton 20 Sep-12 Oct (SR), seven others, high. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: arr Vestal 20 Sep; four others to 2 Oct, good count. **Hermit Thrush**: *intro*. **Wood Thrush**: max five CHEN 4 and 20 Sep. **N. Mockingbird**: four-six/month, good count. **Brown Thrasher**: nine reports, good numbers. **Am. Pipit**: Norwich 18 Sep only one.

Solitary Vireo: max four OPM 14 and 16 Sep; one Sep 26 (MD), late. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: two OPM 9 Sep, one 14 Sep, low. **Warbling Vireo**: ten reports CHEN, OTSE to 14 Sep, good. **Philadelphia Vireo**: arr Sherburne 5 Sep; singles Vestal 6 Sep and TIOG and Norwich 12 Sep, high count. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max six, 14 reports to 27 Sep. **Blue-winged Warbler**: two singles Norwich 4 Sep; one Vestal 5 Sep. **Tennessee Warbler**: max three 12 Sep (CBC). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: only one Norwich 20 Oct. **Nashville Warbler**: max two OTSE 5 Sep and CHEN 12 Sep. **N. Parula**: only one CHEN 16 Sep (EH). **Yellow Warbler**: max three CHEN 16 Sep. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max three imm OPM 5 Sep. **Magnolia Warbler**: max three Norwich 12 Sep, banded Vestal 27 Sep. **Cape May Warbler**: *intro*. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: only four reports, max two. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 100+ CHEN 18 Sep (EH). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max four (two imm) OPM 5 Sep and 16 Sep. **Pine Warbler**: one BROO 1 Sep (MP) uncommon. **Prairie Warbler**: one Afton 5 Sep (SM), rare in fall. **Palm Warbler**: one Afton 18 Sep; one banded Binghamton 4 Oct, only reports. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max two, five reports OTSE, CHEN. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max two REEC 3 Oct, one other. **Black-and-white Warbler**: singles OPM 1 Sep and Norwich 4 Sep, scarce. **Am. Redstart**: seven reports. **Ovenbird**: max four banded Vestal 1 Sep. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 25 two Norwich sites 4 Sep. **Hooded Warbler**: one Norwich 6 and 7 Sep (JL), uncommon. **Wilson's Warbler**: one Binghamton 8-13 Sep (SR); three others. **Canada Warbler**: four reports

Scarlet Tanager: max and last four 16 Sep. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max four Norwich 6 Sep. **Indigo Bunting**: max four CHEN; last TIOG 19 Sep (C&JB). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr CHEN 25 Oct; max 20 there 7 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 12 OPM 5 Sep. **Field Sparrow**: max 15 CHEN 3 Oct and BROO 4 Oct. **Vesper Sparrow**: only one Owego 13 Sep. **Savannah Sparrow**: two Norwich 5 Sep; three singles OPM to 26 Sep, scarce. **Fox Sparrow**: arr two OPM 22 Oct; last of four others 16 Nov. **Song Sparrow**: max 75 REEC 3 Nov. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: arr Morris 21 Sep (JF); four others, good count. **Swamp Sparrow**: max 50 NNM 3 Oct. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 13 Banded Vestal 12 Oct; 10 on 10 Oct, scarce.

White-crowned Sparrow: widespread reports 2-28 Oct max three, sparse. **Snow Bunting:** only one WPR 18 Oct. **Bobolink:** last and only two REEC 4 Sep. **Red-winged Blackbird:** max 200; last 7 Nov. **E. Meadowlark:** max 12 OPM 1 Oct; last BROO 26 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr singles BROO, CHEN 2 Oct; five NNM 23 Oct; four Sherburne 7 Nov, high. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** only three singles Oct, low. **Purple Finch:** max 19 Morris 20 Nov.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The fall period was very cool and generally wet. The average temperature for the three month period was 49.3°F, 2.0° cooler than normal. Total precipitation was 10.99 inches, 1.11 inches above the norm. The first snow fell on 30 Sep in both the southern and northern portions of the Region. At the season's end, 11.5 inches of snow had fallen with the greatest accumulation of 3.3 inches occurring on 17 Nov. The berry crop was poor and there were hardly any wild grapes in most areas. With few exceptions, the fall migration was not an encouraging event. Excessive precipitation and cooler temperatures across the upper two-thirds of the continent caused widespread nesting failure for many species. The net result was that bird populations were way down.

Eight species, Osprey, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Yellow-throated Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager and Bobolink, departed earlier this fall than the previous early Regional departure date, and their average was nine days early. The only notably late departure, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, probably represents a single aberrant bird.

In general, the waterfowl flight was good, but brief. Northern Shoveler, Canvasback and Redhead were alarmingly scarce with maxima of one to two individuals per day. Northern Pintail and Blue-winged Teal fared no better with less than ten birds a day. The only species of diving duck to have a moderate flight were Greater Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser. The concentration of Hooded Merganser at Fairhaven and Beaver Lake was the best in over two decades. Wood Duck showed even greater numbers, with over two thousand congregating at Toad

Harbor. From all indications, it was a successful breeding season for these cavity nesters. With mud flats and shorelines submerged, the only place to attract a variety of shorebirds was Sandy Pond. Fourteen species occurred here with Red Knot, White-rumped Sandpiper and Red Phalarope among the more notable records. Black-bellied Plover and Dunlin lingered, feeding on the remains of Zebra Mussels. In some places the mussel shells were two to three inches deep. It was a poor fall for jaegers with only three reports. No white-winged gulls had been observed by the season's end.

Few records of any consequence were noted among raptors. No major flights occurred either at Sandy Pond or along highland ridges. Golden Eagle, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were seen at several locations, but Northern Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk went unreported.

Other notes of interest include a late November Ruby-throated Hummingbird that appeared at a feeder in Manlius. It survived some snowfall and several nights below freezing before it was captured and taken to the Syracuse Zoo for the winter. A good flight of Horned Larks occurred at Sandy Pond, with over three hundred observed. In contrast, swallows were way down with no more than fifty per day for both Bank and Barn Swallow. Both species of kinglets showed above numbers, with a good flight along the Lake Ontario littoral in mid October. Small flocks of Eastern Bluebirds were found feeding on Buckthorn in West Monroe and Pompey as late as mid November. Warblers were again at record low levels. The best flight day for warblers was 1 Sep at northern Pompey Township and 20 Sep at Verona Beach, with eleven species recorded at each site. Magnolia and Bay-breasted Warblers showed maxima of 20-50 birds, and Yellow-rumped Warbler above 100. Six reports of Cape May Warbler were especially disturbing when compared to 262 reported by Dorothy Crumb in the fall of 1973. A moderate flight of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows was noted at Erieville, and Dark-eyed Junco peaked at over 150 in Pompey Township. American Tree Sparrow and Snow Bunting arrived in the last week of October, but no winter finches were evident at the end of the period.

Here today, gone tomorrow is often the rule for most rarities and such was the case for the following species. The only unusual heron was a Cattle Egret appearing for the second consecutive fall. Among shorebirds, an **American Avocet** seen at Fairhaven Beach State Park on 3 Nov established a second Regional record and the first since 1959. Less unusual was a single Western Sandpiper at Sandy Pond and four Red-necked Phalarope on Lake Ontario near Derby Hill. Other one day

records from Derby Hill included Black-legged Kittiwake and **Sabine's Gull**. Further to the west at Oswego, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found perched in a hedgerow. This represented a second fall report and the first observation in five years. At locations inland **Prairie Warbler**, **Yellow-breasted Chat** and **Brewer's Blackbird** were noted on single days. Caught in a mist-net, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was the first fall record in eleven years. Fortunately, some interesting birds stayed a lot longer. **Red Phalarope** was found for almost a month at several locations along the Lake Ontario littoral. **Little Gull** and **Forster's Tern** continued their early to mid fall occurrence at the outlet to Sandy Pond.

A total of 225 species plus one color morph were reported, with **American Avocet** as the most outstanding. Other notable records include **Cattle Egret**, **Western Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Red Phalarope**, **Little Gull**, **Black-legged Kittiwake**, **Sabine's Gull**, **Forster's Tern**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Clay-colored Sparrow** and **Brewer's Blackbird**. A special thanks to Dorothy Crumb, Gary Lee and Marge Rusk for their contributions to the introduction of this report.

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Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; LSB - Little Sodus Bay, Fairhaven, and vicinity, CAYU; NPT - northern Pompey Township, ONON; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE; StMC - St. Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, ONON; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr Oswego Harbor 30 Oct, max three LOL 8, 28 Nov. **Com. Loon:** arr SPd 19 Sep, max 45 Oswego H 29 Oct. **Pied-billed Grebe:** five LSB 11 Oct, 13 reports. **Horned Grebe:** arr Beaver L 3 Oct, max 18 Oswego H 29 Oct. **Red-necked Grebe:** two Woodman's Pd 24 Nov, one Onondaga L 18 Nov. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 585 DH 17 Oct. **Great Egret:** one Van Buren 14 Sep. **Cattle Egret:** one Lysander 11 Oct (JW). **Green-backed Heron:** last Green Lakes SP 28 Sep. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last Oswego 12 Sep. **Tundra Swan:** three LSB 15-22 Nov. **Snow Goose:** arr Beaver L 3 Oct, max 50 W. Winfield 20 Oct, last MADI 21 Oct; two blue morph MADI 21 Oct, one Beaver L 3 Oct. **Canada Goose:** last Adks 28 Nov. **Wood Duck:** max 2230 Toad H 27 Sep, record Regional max (BP). **Green-winged Teal** max 38 Hookway Tract Syracuse 31 Oct. **Am. Black Duck:**

max 140 DH 25 Oct. **N. Pintail**: arr SVB 23 Sep, six reports. **Blue-winged Teal**: seven Lysander 1 Sep, last Onondaga L 30 Sep. **N. Shoveler**: two LSB 25 Oct, only report. **Gadwall**: max 30 LOL 1 Nov. **Am. Wigeon**: arr SPd 13 Sep, max 120 LOL 1 Nov, last LSB 22 Nov. **Canvasback**: singles LSB 31 Oct, Toad H 4 Nov. **Redhead**: two LSB 15-22 Nov. **Ring-necked Duck**: arr SVB 10 Oct, max 52 MADI 21 Oct, last LSB 22 Nov. **Greater Scaup**: arr SPd 20 Sep, max 920 Toad H and Oswego H 8 Nov. **Lesser Scaup**: arr Toad H 31 Oct, max 21 LOL 15 Nov. **Oldsquaw**: arr and max 380 DH 25 Oct. **Black Scoter**: arr DH 3 Oct, max 12 there 25 Oct, last DH 13 Nov. **Surf Scoter**: arr DH 3 Oct, max four there 13 Oct, 7 Nov; last LSB 22 Nov. **White-winged Scoter**: arr DH 29 Sep, max and last 100 there 27 Nov. **Com. Goldeneye**: arr DH 17 Oct, max 410 Toad H and Oswego H 8 Nov. **Bufflehead**: arr Oswego H 18 Oct, max 94 LSB 21 Nov. **Hooded Merganser**: max 242 Beaver L and LSB 22 Nov. **Com. Merganser**: max 340 Beaver L and LSB 2 2 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser**: arr SPd 26 Sep, max 400 Beaver L and LSB 1 5 Nov. **Ruddy Duck**: arr Beaver L 25 Sep, max 30 there 10 Nov, last on 15 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: max 50 near Montezuma 4 Oct, last W Monroe 31 Oct. **Bald Eagle**: two SVB 23 Sep, singles Sangerfield 13,19 Sep, DH 29 Sep, 25 Oct, Fulton Chain Adks. **N. Harrier**: 18 reports. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 16 reports. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr OSWE 12 Oct, eight reports. **Golden Eagle**: singles Pompey 16 Oct, Richland 22 Oct, Beaver L 15 Nov. **Merlin**: singles SPd 4, 20 Sep, Erieville 9-18 Sep, Richland 25 Oct. **Peregrine Falcon**: singles SPd 20 Sep, DH 29 Sep, 3 Oct. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: eight reports. **Virginia Rail**: one Clay Marsh 5 Sep, only report. **Com. Moorhen**: last SPd 18 Oct. **Am. Coot**: max 78 LSB 25 Oct. **Black-bellied Plover**: max 21 SPd 10 Oct. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: max 30 Schroepfel 13 Oct, last SPd 18 Oct. **Semipalmated Plover**: max 28 Schroepfel 13 Oct, last there 16 Oct. **Killdeer**: max 130 Mexico 11 Oct. **AM. AVOCET**: *intro* (GW, ph, NYSARC). **Greater Yellowlegs**: eight Schroepfel ONON 12-15 Oct. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: three Lysander 1 Sep to 15 Oct. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last Lysander 18 Sep. **Hudsonian Godwit**: one LSB 25 Oct. **Ruddy Turnstone**: six Oswego H 13 Sep, last SPd 12 Oct. **Red Knot**: arr SPd 7 Sep, max 11 there 11 Sep, last LSB 11 Oct. **Sanderling**: max 58 SPd 13 Sep. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 65 SPd 4 Sep. **W. Sandpiper**: one SPd 2 Oct. **Least Sandpiper**: four SPd 4 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr Oswego H 13 Sep, four SPd 8-14 Nov. **Baird's Sandpiper**: two SPd 4 Sep, last there 26 Sep. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 11 Manlius 8 Oct. **Dunlin**: arr SPd 29 Sep, max 65 there 18 Oct, last SPd 14 Nov. **Stilt Sandpiper**: singles Lysander 4 Sep, SPd 26 Sep. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: two Lysander 16 Sep. **Com. Snipe**: max 30 Schroepfel

12 Oct. **Red-necked Phalarope**: four DH 29 Sep. **Red Phalarope**: singles DH 17 Oct, Oswego H 24 Oct to 1 Nov, SPd 14 Nov. **Parasitic Jaeger**: three reports DH 27 Sep to 12 Oct. **Little Gull**: two SPd 7-12 Sep, one there 19, 20 Sep. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 250 SVB 10 Oct. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: one DH 17 Oct (TS). **SABINE'S GULL**: juv DH 27 Nov (mob), late. **Caspian Tern**: max 26 SPd 1 Sep. **Com. Tern**: max 240 SVB 27 Sep. **Forster's Tern**: two SPd 11,12 Oct; singles SPd 11, 26 Sep, DH 29 Sep, SVB 10 Oct. **Black Tern**: three SPd 7 Sep.

Mourning Dove: max 115 Mexico 11 Oct. **Snowy Owl**: arr Rome area 26 Oct, nine reports. **Barred Owl**: three Erieville 3 Oct. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 15 Syracuse 2 Sep, last there 14 Sep. **Chimney Swift**: ten Rome 7 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: *intro* (A. Kidney, ph), record Regional late. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two reports LOL, scarce. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: last Clark Reservation 18 Oct, 11 reports. **N. Flicker**: max 28 SPd 20 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 12 LOL 7 Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: singles Onondaga L 4 Sep, Green Lakes SP 14 Sep. **E. Phoebe**: seven Hastings 28 Sep. **Horned Lark**: max 385 SPd and DH 14 Nov. **Tree Swallow**: max 75 LOL 7 Sep. **Bank Swallow**: max and last 50 SPd 7 Sep. **Cliff Swallow**: max and last seven Oriskany Falls 5 Sep. **Barn Swallow**: max 41 Oriskany Falls 5 Sep. **Am. Crow**: max 800 Richland 25 Oct. **Black-capped Chickadee**: max 65 Pratts Falls 9 Sep. **Carolina Wren**: 13 reports. **House Wren**: eight LOL 7 Sep. **Winter Wren**: max 16 SSSP 18 Oct. **Marsh Wren**: max 14 Clay Marsh 5 Sep, last there 14 Oct. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr Oswego 23 Sep, max 258 SSSP and Richland 18 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr Hastings 20 Sep, max 183 SSSP and Richland 18 Oct, last Oswego 8 Nov. **E. Bluebird**: max 22 W Monroe 26 Oct. **Veery**: two SPd 11 Oct, five reports. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one Pratts Falls 11 Sep. **Swainson's Thrush**: four StMC 10 Sep, six reports. **Hermit Thrush**: max 21 SSSP 18 Oct, last Syracuse 31 Oct. **Wood Thrush**: max two Pompey 7 Sep, six reports. **Brown Thrasher**: four reports. **Am. Pipit**: arr SPd 12 Sep, max 32 Richland 18 Oct, last Hinckley L 1 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 80 W Winfield 13 Oct. **N. Shrike**: arr Palermo 24 Oct, five reports.

Solitary Vireo: max six SVB 20 Sep. **Warbling Vireo**: max three SPd 1 Sep. **Philadelphia Vireo**: last Clark Reservation 24 Sep, only two reports. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max five LOL 7 Sep. **Golden-winged Warbler**: last Radisson 4 Sep. **Tennessee Warbler**: twelve reports. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: singles Pratts Falls 12 Sep, SVB 27 Sep. **Nashville Warbler**: max three StMC 10 Sep. **N. Parula**: max two StMC 10 Sep, nine reports. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max three Rome 7 Sep. **Magnolia**

Warbler: max 50 NPT 1 Sep. **Cape May Warbler:** max three SVB 4 Sep, six reports. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max three Rome 1 Sep. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 120 LSB 10 Oct, last W Winfield 28 Nov. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max ten SVB 20 Sep. **Blackburnian Warbler:** max three SVB 4 Sep. **Pine Warbler:** last SSSP 30 Sep. **Prairie Warbler:** one Pompey 7 Sep, only report. **Palm Warbler:** arr SPd 20 Sep, max five Toad H 1 Oct, last Clark Reservation 9 Oct. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 20 Syracuse 7 Sep. **Blackpoll Warbler:** max five SVB 20, 27 Sep. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max two Pratt's Falls 8 Sep. **Am. Redstart:** max four Rome 7 Sep. **Ovenbird:** max two Pompey 9 Sep. **N. Waterthrush:** one report only. **Mourning Warbler:** last Pompey 7 Sep. **Com. Yellowthroat:** max 13 Erieville 14 Sep. **Hooded Warbler:** one NPT 9 Sep. **Wilson's Warbler:** max two Hastings 24 Sep, four reports. **Canada Warbler:** last Apulia 13 Sep. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one banded Baltimore Woods ONON 24 Oct (DW).

Indigo Bunting: last Baltimore Woods ONON 25 Oct, late. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** max six Clay Marsh 6 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr Erieville 21 Oct, max 12 Clay Marsh 18 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 18 SPd 1 Sep, last Oswego 20 Nov. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Oswego 25 Sep (CF), *intro*. **Field Sparrow:** max six Rome 28 Sep, last Green Lakes SP 26 Oct. **Vesper Sparrow:** max and last seven Richland 18 Oct. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 25 Airport Rd N Syracuse 17 Sep. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one Pompey 11 Sep. **Fox Sparrow:** arr SPd 10 Oct, last Erieville 27 Oct. **Song Sparrow:** max 50 Erieville 20 Oct. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Syracuse 8 Sep, six reports. **Swamp Sparrow:** max 11 Toad H 1 Oct. **White-throated Sparrow:** max 100 Erieville 20 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max 100 Erieville 20 Oct. **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 150 Erieville 22 Oct. **Lapland Longspur:** singles Rome 12 Oct, Mexico 8 Nov. **Snow Bunting:** arr LSB 25 Oct, max 150 LOL 30 Oct. **E. Meadowlark:** last Rome 19 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Clay Marsh 30 Sep, max 397 there 28 Oct, last Clay Marsh 4 Nov. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** one Erieville 17 Oct. **Com. Grackle:** max 21,000 Hastings 25 Oct, last N Syracuse 8 Nov. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 150 OSWE 12 Oct. **Purple Finch:** max nine Erieville 18 Sep. **White-winged Crossbill:** a few Old Forge. **Pine Siskin:** five reports, 23-28 Oct. **Am. Goldfinch:** max 92 Pompey and Jamesville 11 Sep. **Evening Grosbeak:** arr Hastings 9 Oct.

Exotics: **Red-crested Pochard:** female LSB 1 Nov.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

GERALD A. SMITH

After a cool wet summer temperatures this September were close to normal and precipitation was greater than normal. Major cold fronts occurred on 1, 10-11, 18-19, 23-24, and 29-30 Sep, and our Region was slightly affected by the remains of hurricane Danielle on 26 and 27 Sep. October returned to the cold, wet pattern of much of 1992, especially along Lake Ontario where high water levels continued. Cold fronts occurred on 4-5, 9-12 (multiple), 16-19, 24-26, and 29-30 Oct. November continued the colder than normal weather of 1992 and precipitation continued above normal. Snowfall was recorded on several dates throughout the month and by mid November winter had arrived in most parts of the Region.

Overall this was a season of relatively few highlights as many groups, notably raptors, shorebirds and passerines were reported in low numbers. Compared to recent years, shorebird numbers were awful, largely as a result of the endless monsoon of 1992 that inundated El Dorado Beach Preserve and other good sites in this Region. Probably the highlight of the season is the increasing number of active observers in this Region that are providing more information for the Regional editors.

One notable event of the season is the continuing increase in reports of all local swans and geese, with the exception of Brant, for which there were only 2 reports during Oct. One to seven Tundra Swans per day were reported in nw JEFF during Nov. Mute Swan continues (unfortunately) to increase at Perch River WMA. Snow Goose had a banner year with several flocks reported between early Oct and late Nov. As always in recent years Canada Goose flocks were everywhere, except the Adirondacks, through the period. In contrast to Swans and Geese most duck species were present in poor numbers. Mallard was the only abundant dabbler, and the few reports of Blue-winged Teal are a far cry from the hundreds reported in the early 1980s. Every fall observers report hundreds to thousands of Lesser Scaup on Lake Ontario to this Editor. These identifications are clearly in error, as Greater Scaup predominates here.

There were few reports of Double-crested Cormorant; have they become so common as to be ignored? Killdeer was the only common shorebird this fall. Most gull species are now so abundant that most observers fail to report them. Notable gull reports were of Little Gull,

Bonaparte's Gull widespread along L Ontario and the St Lawrence River in flocks of 10-25 through the period, and Black-legged Kittiwake. In contrast, two of our three local tern species continue to decline. Terns were poorly reported, with small flocks of Caspian and Common Tern along L Ontario to 20 Sep. No Black Tern was reported.

This was a mediocre year for Rough-legged Hawk, and the fact that most were adult and second year individuals suggests the species had poor reproductive success. American Kestrel is much less frequent than 15-20 years ago. There was a fair echo flight of Snowy Owl after last year's incursion, with reports widespread after October, and Short-eared Owl was found in fair numbers in nw Jeff during Nov.

Amongst land birds the only highlights document the continued spread and increase of southern resident species notably: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren. Reports of Northern Cardinal also continue to increase in more northerly parts of the Region, where the species is still uncommon. Mourning Dove numbers continue to increase along the western fringes of the Adirondacks. Winter finches, especially Evening Grosbeak, were very scarce.

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Abbreviations: BRB - Black River Bay; CH - Colwell Hill at Lakeside WMA; CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; EDB - El Dorado Beach Preserve, JEFF; HH - Henderson Harbor, JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River WMA; PtPen - Point Peninsula; PtS - Pt Salubrious; SBSP - Southwick Beach State Park; SLR - St Lawrence River; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** only report Coles Creek SP 19 Nov. **Com. Loon:** breeders on Cranberry L StLA Sep, arr CV 3 Oct, most 1-10 per day to end of Nov. **Horned Grebe:** arr several areas 14-16 Oct, widespread flight with 2-10 per day along L Ontario through period, max 20 PtPen 5 Nov (TD), best numbers in a decade (LBC). **Red-necked Grebe:** six reports of one-three/day early Oct-mid Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** seven reports primarily from PRWMA, ULLWMA and WHWMA, max eight PRWMA 2 Sep, last HH 15 Nov (LBC), late. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 100-125/day MSPD Sep-Oct (MB), increasing on SLR; one HH 27 Nov. **Great Blue Heron:** to five/day through mid Nov, singles regular thereafter, increasingly common in late fall. **Am. Bittern:** two reports, including three PRWMA 2 Sep. **Mute Swan:** max 15 PRWMA 23 Oct. **Tundra Swan:** intro. **Snow Goose:** max

75 Ogdensburg 18 Nov (DDiT). **Brant**: *intro*. **Canada Goose**: *intro*. **Wood Duck**: few reports, max 11 Wanakena StLA 13 Oct. **Green-winged Teal**: only report three PRWMA 23 Oct. **Am. Black Duck**: scattered reports four-eight/day Oct-Nov only. **Cinnamon Teal**: escapee with plastic leg tag shot PRWMA 3 Oct (*fide* LBC). **Blue-winged Teal**: max ten/day, last two T Rutland JEFF. **Am. Wigeon**: 200 PRWMA 21 Oct, high count there. **N. Shoveler**: 30 PRWMA 21 Oct, good count. **Canvasback**: female PRWMA 24 Sep, only report. **Redhead**: only report 154 WHWMA 7 Sep (DDiT), presumably local introduced breeders. **Ring-necked Duck**: one-three/day scattered Oct-Nov, very scarce; last HH 26 Nov. **Greater Scaup**: flocks of 100-500 per day after mid Oct L Ontario, max 4500 BRB 11 Nov. **Oldsquaw**: max 1500 EDB 22 Nov (GS), very high count. **Com. Goldeneye**: 75-200 per day L Ontario in Nov. **Bufflehead**: max 40-60/day PtPen 8-15 Nov. Hooded Merganser: 10-25/day widespread Nov, good numbers; max 400 WHWMA 29 Oct (DDiT) may be a Regional record max. **Com. Merganser**: two-eight/day widespread, usual concentrations at MSPD not reported.

Turkey Vulture: max 15 CH 23 Sep, last StLA 21 Nov (TD), late. **Bald Eagle**: ten reports 2 Sep-24 Nov, most L Ontario-SLR. **N. Harrier**: four/day most lowland areas through period, max eight PtPen. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: eight reports, max six CH 23 Sep (LBC), continues decline. **Cooper's Hawk**: ten widespread reports, max two. **N. Goshawk**: only two reports Nov, definitely not an invasion year here. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one capturing a Meadow Vole near DeGrasse StLa 2 Sep (PO), only report. **Red-tailed Hawk**: two-five/day widespread, max 15 Pt. Pen 28 Oct. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr several areas last week Oct, max five; *intro*. **Golden Eagle**: five reports, including two Massena 25 Oct (DDiT) and imm injured from collision with powerline Rector, T Montague, LEWI, later died. **Am. Kestrel**: max six CV 20 Sep (MBW), widespread to late Oct, singles thereafter. **Merlin**: seven singles SLR and L Ontario 4 Sep-21 Oct plus one very late Wilson Bay Marsh CV 15 Nov (MBW). **Peregrine Falcon**: one near Henderson 16 Oct (GM). **Wild Turkey**: five CV 10 Nov unusual as species still uncommon in lowlands. **Com. Moorhen**: last Wilson Bay Marsh CV 20 Sep. **Am. Coot**: to six/day HH 6-29 Nov. **Semipalmated Plover**: max five Sherwins Bay, T Henderson, 16 Sep. **Killdeer**: max 45 Stony Creek Boat Launch, T Henderson 15 Sep, last 2 Nov. **Greater Yellowlegs**: to two/day Oct, scarce. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: to five/day to mid Oct. **Red Knot**: 12 Lakeside WMA 15 Sep, four SBSP 20 Sep feeding amongst dead Zebra Mussel (LBC). **Sanderling**: to 12/day L Ontario Sep-Oct. **Least Sandpiper**: probable injured bird present Sawyers Bay, T Henderson, very late. **W. Sandpiper**: one Quarry Rd CV 19-20 Sep

(MBW). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one MSPD 27 Oct (DDiT). **Dunlin**: arr Sawyer's Bay, T Henderson, 3 Oct; max 19 EDB 11 Oct (GM). **Am. Woodcock**: still present in Tug Hill Plateau at Lorraine 20 Oct (DSL). **Little Gull**: one-three/day MSPD 21 Oct-18 Nov (DDiT). **Black-legged Kittiwake**: four singles MSPD 21 Oct-24 Nov.

Mourning Dove: max 56 at feeder Ogdensburg (PK). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: two reports L Ontario 8-15 Sep. **E. Screech-Owl**: one-two CV daily and five/day Watertown, only reports. **Snowy Owl**: arr PtPen 28 Oct, to two/day including areas of Adirondack and Tug Hill fringes, three T Lowville (BH) unusual. **Short-eared Owl**: to nine/day nw JEFF Nov, max 13 PtS 19 Nov. **Com Nighthawk**: to four/day through 6 Sep, scarce. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: five reports sw JEFF suggests establishment in this part of the Region. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: five singles 20-30 Sep. **Pileated Woodpecker**: 16 reports, max three, holding its own.

E. Wood-Pewee: one Lorraine 13 Oct, late for the Tug Hill. **E. Phoebe**: 2-6 per day widespread to 9 Oct. **Horned Lark**: max 45 Henderson 21 Nov. **Tree Swallow**: max 300-550 per day several sites Sep, last two PtPen 1 Nov. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: two CH 20 Sep (LBC), late. **Gray Jay**: to eight/day at three Adirondack locations (PO, LBC). **Am. Crow**: 1000+ in migrant flocks JEFF mid Oct. **Com. Raven**: several reports Tug Hill Plateau, max 12 near N Osceola LEWI 1 Nov (GM) and one-four/day at other Tug Hill-Adirondack locations, still rare in lowlands, continued increase. **Tufted Titmouse**: four reports, most notable one on Tug Hill Plateau in T Lorraine 28 Sep (DSL) where virtually unknown. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: scattered singles only. **Brown Creeper**: scattered singles only 23 Sep-24 Oct. **Carolina Wren**: five reports, including one Canton 5 Oct-4 Nov (JG). **Winter Wren**: singles only 16 Sep-13 Oct. **Marsh Wren**: one PRWMA 24 Nov (LBC, GM), attempting to overwinter? **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr Henderson 23 Sep, max hundreds T Lorraine mid Oct (DSL). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr Henderson 23 Sep, hundreds Lorraine mid Oct (DSL), last CV 22 Oct. **E. Bluebird**: to six/day several areas to late Oct, max 30 CV 19 Oct, still present nw JEFF Dec, definite increase. **Hermit Thrush**: to four/day scattered 4-17 Oct. **N. Mockingbird**: one CV 20 Sep where rare(MBW). **Am. Pipit**: arr 35 Henderson 7 Oct, max 170 CV 12 Oct, high count, last T Henderson 20 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing**: 20-40 per day widespread, max 250 Cranberry L STLA 14 Oct. **N. Shrike**: arr 5 Nov, three reports, scarce. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Town Barn Road, T Henderson 1 Sep (GM), first report in years.

Solitary Vireo: one-four/day scattered 20 Sep-19 Oct. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** two T Lisbon StLA 26 Sep, singles Massena area 5 and 22 Oct (DDiT), excellent flight. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** to ten/day widespread 20 Sep-16 Oct. **Palm Warbler:** two reports 20 Sep-18 Oct. **Pine Warbler:** ten Waddington and 14 Coles Creek SP StLA 12 Sep (DDiT), extraordinary count. **Com. Yellowthroat:** one Rays Bay Marsh T Henderson 28 Nov (LBC, GM), wintering?

Am. Tree Sparrow: to five/day after 17 Oct, very scarce. **Chipping Sparrow:** two-six migrants/day 20 Sep-23 Oct. **Vesper Sparrow:** five PtPen 17 Oct (RJW), four PtPen 28 Oct (LBC, GM), only reports. **Song Sparrow:** one still present Rays Bay Marsh T Henderson 28 Nov. **Swamp Sparrow:** five still present PRWMA 24 Nov. **White-throated Sparrow:** to 15/day widespread 28 Sep-27 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow:** to six/day widespread 28 Sep-27 Oct, max 100 PtPen 17 Oct. **Dark-eyed Junco:** to 40/day widespread 5 Oct-1 Nov. **Snow Bunting:** to 30/day scattered in Nov. **Com. Grackle:** one lingering Lorraine 18-19 Nov (DSL), late. **Rusty Blackbird:** max 50 PRWMA 21 Oct. **Purple Finch:** 15 T Lorraine 28 Nov only report of more than two, scarce. **House Finch:** present at Lorraine, where rare, in mid Nov. **Pine Siskin:** very scarce, max 20 near Smithville, T Henderson, Oct. **Evening Grosbeak:** only flock 31 T Lorraine 28 Nov (DSL).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C PETERSON

September saw more warm, above average days than cold days, with monthly temperatures 1.4°F above average and a high of 77°F on 17 Sep. Monthly rainfall was 4.73", over 1.5 inches more than normal, but yearly precipitation was still 2.5 inches below normal. Inlet had snow flurries on 30 Sep. There was 0.1 inch of snow in the Champlain Valley, hardly enough to dust feeders, but the first September with measurable snowfall since record keeping began in 1894. October's weather was uneventful. November's rainfall was 3.67 inches, overly wet compared to the expected 2.8 inches, yet at the end of the month yearly rainfall was 29.89 inches, some 1.35 inches below average. The month was extremely overcast, with a dreary 24% of possible sunshine (30% is normal) and only six days with some sun. The dismal weather was brightened by reports of 173 species, seven more than last fall and 18 more than 1990. Between 11 Sep and 19 Nov, a total of 250 birds of 36 species was banded near Elizabethtown.

Geese provided a number of intriguing records. Among the 7-10 thousand Snow Goose at Point au Roche SP CLIN, fourteen yellow neck collars on white-morph adults were read and reported by Bill Krueger between 21 Oct-29 Nov. Three present 21 Oct were female Greater Snow Goose that had been banded 11-17 Aug 1991 near Bylot Island (northeast of Baffin Island), District of Franklin, Northwest Territories. Interestingly, the flock at Point au Roche contained several blue morph birds, as well, almost certainly Lesser Snow Goose. While checking the flock for neck collars on 27 Nov, Krueger and Charlie Mitchell identified an adult white morph **Ross's Goose**. Subsequently seen by Tom Barber, Dwight Cargill, and Mike Peterson, the goose remained through the end of the season. This appears to be the sixth record for New York State since 1983, but the first fall report, with all other sightings falling between 1 Jan-1 Apr. It is a first Regional and CLIN record, as well. Note that the known breeding grounds of Ross's Goose in the Districts of Mackenzie and Keewatin, and on Southampton Island, NWT, lie well to the *south* of Bylot Island. Elsewhere, a Brant was feeding on grass in the Tupper Lake municipal park with 75 Canada Goose, one of which had been banded near Philadelphia, PA, on 27 June 1991. A Canada Goose shot near Essex on 17 Oct hatched in 1986 or earlier and had been banded near Townsend, DE, 17 Feb 1988. Another Canada Goose shot near Westport 20 Oct was too young to fly when banded at nearby Dead Creek Refuge, VT, 18 July 1992. There were 40 Canada Goose with the Greater and Lesser Snow Goose and the Ross's Goose at Point au Roche. A maximum of 3,000 Canada Goose were at the Malone Recreation Park on 23 Oct.

In addition to the geese, there were other interesting Canadian visitors. A dark morph Rough-legged Hawk arrived at Westport 19 Nov. Bill Krueger observed a white **Gyr Falcon** cruising down the Champlain shoreline near Plattsburgh on 13 Nov, flying about ten feet over the water. Joan Mitchell reported a Snowy Owl on the CVP Hospital in Plattsburgh 12 Nov. At 9:30 AM on 18 Nov, William Brown spotted a **Northern Hawk Owl** perched along the Heart Lake Road, outside Lake Placid. Promptly verified by Bob and Charlotte Ladwig and Bob Hagar, and subsequently seen by at least a half dozen other birders, the owl remained along the same stretch of road through the end of the period. Bohemian Waxwing now has been reported in this Region during 12 of the past 14 winters. The first Northern Shrike was at Forestmere Ponds FRAN by 20 Oct, according to Jan Trzeciak. American Tree Sparrow arrived at Mountain View Lake on 26 Oct. Gary Lee reported Snow Bunting at Cedar River on 26 Oct; although there were ten reports, the largest flock was of 65 at Lake Placid, but a report from atop Wright Peak on 17 Oct by Candy and John Hess was noteworthy.

The origins of other Regional rarities were less certain. Was a September Great Egret a wanderer from the south, or from the Quebec colony to the northwest? All **Little Gull**, to date, had occurred as single birds along Lake Champlain. Thus, one seen at Ausable Point by Terry Hall, Judy and Roger Heintz, and Bill Krueger 25 Oct-15 Nov was not unexpected. But *six Little Gull* at the Tupper Lake municipal park on 9 Nov were unprecedented. Charlie and Jack Delehanty had paid their usual visit to count geese and gulls; it was a sunny day and 300+ Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were resting on the ice. About 60 feet away were six small gulls (the length of a Blue Jay, chunkier, with black caps on their heads), closely bunched and also resting; they were gone later the same day. [These details are inclusive in themselves - *The Editor*.] Another unexpected find was the **Cerulean Warbler** on the Nathan Farb property on Stone House Road, Jay, 12 Sep. Seen by Barbara Johnston, Anne and Linwood Sherman, and Anne Straight, it provides only the second ESSE and third Regional record.

Finally, Double-crested Cormorant were still present at the Four Brothers Islands on 13 Oct. Rather surprising, however, was the number of inland cormorant sightings: Lewey Lake on 4 Sep, two at the Cedar River Flow on 5 Sep (both HAMI), Mountain View Lake on 6 Sep, three at Malone Recreation Park and five on Indian Lake 19 Oct, and the last on Rainbow Lake 31 Oct (all FRAN).

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has published a *Birds of Crown Point State Historic Site* checklist, containing the 175 species recorded there. Copies are available to visitors at the site, or from this editor. Andrew Saunders has also revised the Newcomb-Long Lake checklist, and copies will be available at the Newcomb Adirondack Park Visitors' Interpretive Center.

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Abbreviations: APt - Ausable Point WMA; MRP - Malone Recreation Park; TL - Tupper Lake.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** max 20 Port Kent 8 Nov (JB, TM), unprecedented number. **Com. Loon:** max 15 Corlear Bay ESSE 10 Oct. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max ten Cedar R 5 Sep (RM). **Horned Grebe:** max 20 APt 8-15 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** max seven L Placid 1 Nov (RH, TM); CLIN 5 & 14 Nov; three APt 15 Nov; a good showing. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro.* **Great Egret:** one CLIN 7 Sep (BK). **Snow Goose:** *intro.* **Ross's Goose:** *intro.* **Brant:** *intro.* **Canada Goose:** *intro.* **Mallard:** max 80+ TL 10 Nov. **N. Pintail:** drake Monty Bay 8 Nov (JB, TM). **Am. Wigeon:** two TL 10 Nov (CD), rare inland. **Redhead:** mouth Saranac R 31 Oct (J&RH), increasingly scarce. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 70 Monty Bay 8 Nov (JB, TM). **Greater Scaup:** max 8 TL 29 Sep. **Lesser Scaup:** max 20 Monty Bay 8 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** several reports CLIN, FRAN. **Surf Scoter:** two MRP 19 Oct; 2 L. Colby 31 Oct; drake Point au Roche 1 Nov (HK, WK, CM), second CLIN record. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 700 Monty Bay 19 Nov (C&JH). **Bufflehead:** max 22 Monty Bay 19 Nov. **Hooded Merganser:** max 300 Indian L FRAN 1 Nov. **Com. Merganser:** max 300 Indian L FRAN 1 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser:** Point au Roche 28 Sep; two Indian L FRAN 1 Nov only reports.

Bald Eagle: ad TL 25 Sep (CD)-1 Oct (SC, TD); ad Mt View and Indian Lakes 28 Nov (JT), fewer than expected. **Rough-legged Hawk:** *intro.* **Golden Eagle:** nearly full ad being harassed by Com. Raven Cedar R early Sep (RM), only report. **Merlin:** APt 6 Sep (CM) and 11 Oct (LS). **Peregrine Falcon:** SUNY Plattsburgh administration bldg 20 Oct (J&RH), only report. **Gyr Falcon:** *intro.* **Ring-necked Pheasant:** only reports from Malone and TL Oct. **Ruffed Grouse:** "way down" HAMI (RM). **Wild Turkey:** two TL 14 Oct; three TL 5 Nov; Limekiln Road 20 Oct. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr Plattsburgh 17 Sep; max three there 6 Oct. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** arr Plattsburgh 20 Sep. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr Plattsburgh 23 Sep; max five there 5 Nov, late CLIN record. **Killdeer:** max 20 TL 7 Sep. **Greater Yellowlegs:** two Cedar R HAMI 22 Oct (GL) noteworthy interior sighting; Plattsburgh 14 Nov, late CLIN record. **Solitary Sandpiper:** last Saranac L Central Pd 1 Oct. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** Plattsburgh 14 Oct, exceptional find. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** Saranac L Central Pd 23-27 Sep unusual; max four Plattsburgh 20 Oct. **Dunlin:** five sightings Plattsburgh 8 Oct-1 Nov; max eight there 18 Oct. **Com. Snipe:** winnowing Owls Head 26 Sep. **LITTLE GULL:** *intro.* **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 70 Westport 13 Sep; many CLIN 8 Nov. **Great**

Black-backed Gull: Indian L FRAN 28 Nov (JT); L Flower dam FRAN 2 Dec (TD), unusual away from Champlain.

Rock Dove: dead AU banded racing pigeon McDonald's parking lot, Ticonderoga, 14 Sep released at Rochester, NY, in Worcester, MA, Homing Pigeon Club Futurity race. **Snowy Owl:** *intro*. **N. Hawk Owl:** *intro*. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** road kill CLIN 18 Nov. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** Ferd's Bog 4 Sep (GL); male Vermontville burn 5 Sep (LS).

Horned Lark: max 20 Westville 30 Oct (HW). **Com. Raven:** *ca.* 80 in paired display flights Altona Flatrocks CLIN after 23 Sep (NG); *ca.* 75-150 in paired display flights Rattlesnake Mt/Mt Discovery ESSE 27 Sep (SD, JP, D&HW); 26 in paired display flights Kate Mt FRAN 26 Nov (TM); truly spectacular! **Gray Jay:** one Rt. 28 Raquette L 15 Oct (TD); three Sabattis Road 10 Nov; three Saranac Inn feeder 27 Nov (CD). **Boreal Chickadee:** Ferd's Bog 4 Sep (GL); two Cedar R 5 Sep (RM); four Wright Peak 17 Oct (C&JH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 10 Peru 3 Oct (C&JH). **E. Bluebird:** max 50+ Owls Head 8-9 Oct (JT); 25 Westport 27 Nov (DS), fairly late for so many. **Am. Pipit:** arr CLIN 20 Sep (WK); two Newcomb beaver pd 4 Oct (AS); two Saranac L 4 Oct (RH); summit Rocky Peak Ridge (4,300 feet elevation) 6 Oct (WL); max 20 Bombay 30 Oct (HW), an extraordinary showing. **Bohemian Waxwing:** arr CLIN 15 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing:** hatching year bird with *orange* tail tip banded Elizabethtown 12 Sep (JP); max 100+ Cedar R early Sep. **Northern Shrike:** *intro*.

Philadelphia Vireo: Plattsburgh 6 Sep (J&RH); banded Elizabethtown 16 Sep. **Pine Warbler:** last APt 13 Sep (J&RH). **Palm Warbler:** Yellow race Saranac L Central Pd 31 Oct (RH), only report. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** *intro*. **Wilson's Warbler:** Red R, MRRA, Hami, 15 Oct (GL), only report.

Rufous-sided Towhee: Inlet 21 Oct (GL), an unexpected locale for the only sighting. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** *intro*. **Field Sparrow:** transient Saranac L 6 Oct. **Vesper Sparrow:** max five Saranac L Central Pd 22 Oct; last there 31 Oct. **Fox Sparrow:** arr Elizabethtown (banded) 4 Oct; max four TL 25-27 Oct; last Saranac L 30 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max four TL 15 Oct. **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 200+ Indian L FRAN 20 Oct (JT); Oregon X Slate-colored hybrid family still at Inlet feeder Sep (GL); Oregon type with 15 Slate-colored Bloomingdale Bog 4 Oct (TD). **Snow Bunting:** *intro*. **Red-winged Blackbird:** Squaw L HAMI 17 Nov (GL), late away from feeders. **Com. Grackle:** max 50 TL 30 Oct; two Inlet feeder 20 Nov late. **Purple Finch:** short song Paradox 31 Oct; four-six TL 8-9 Nov, only reports. **House Finch:** Elizabethtown and Inlet feeders, where

unusual. **Red Crossbill:** Elizabethtown 30 Nov (JP), only report. **Am. Goldfinch:** feeding begging y TL 15 Sep; max 60 Port Kent 8 Nov; 11 banded Elizabethtown 30 Sep-19 Nov, only reports. **Evening Grosbeak:** 15 flying ne Elizabethtown 25 Sep; 13 TL feeder 13 Nov, only reports.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ALAN A. MAPES

September was a dry month with near normal temperatures. October, however, was much colder than normal, with temperatures averaging almost 4°F below normal. The month started out sunny and pleasant, but the latter two-thirds was mostly cloudy and cool, with occasional showers. November continued cool, with small wetlands and marshes frozen by 8 Nov. They thawed again later in the month.

Migration of raptors and waterfowl seemed to occur at expected times and with normal numbers of birds. Winter finches were largely absent. Two reports of Evening Grosbeak were received, but there were no reports of Pine Siskin, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll or either crossbill.

Wintering Mute Swan were seen in much greater numbers than usual in the Hudson River, as reported by the Alan Devoe Bird Club. One observer found 156 of these birds on the Hudson River in COLU on 29 Nov. A pair of Mute Swan nested unsuccessfully on Round Lake SARA this year. The pair was captured by biologists from the state Department of Environmental Conservation in an effort to reduce disturbance of other species of nesting waterfowl, and the swans were placed with a person who raises exotic waterfowl.

In late November, Robert Yunick reported large numbers of gulls drawn to the Niskyuna Landfill, SCHE. On 28 Nov he estimated 500 Great Black-backed, 3500 Herring and 800 Ring-billed Gulls in that area, the largest assemblage of gulls found in his many years of birding that area.

Raptors were generally scarce in the Region. Robert Yunick reports driving 100 miles of the Thruway (I-87) south of Albany on 21 Nov and not seeing a single Red-tailed Hawk. On 28 Nov at the Niskyuna Landfill he found only four Red-tailed Hawk, where he normally finds a dozen. Northern Harrier was very scarce over much of the Region, with

none seen during the period at Five Rivers Center in Delmar. This species is usually seen almost daily at that location in the fall. There were, however, five reports of Northern Harrier from COLU. Wintering owls were very scarce, with no reports of Short-eared Owl during the period. Four reports of Snowy Owl were received. Two were seen within the city of Albany (3 and 12 Nov), each present for one day only. A Snowy Owl hunted at the South Albany Airport (Selkirk) for four days during Thanksgiving week. These three sightings possibly could have been of the same bird. A fourth report came from Johnstown on 6 Nov.

House Finch continues to decline in numbers in Schenectady, as reported by Robert Yunick. Reports of low numbers were received from several other locations. Yunick also reported that Purple Finch was scarce at Jenny Lake, SARA. A record low number of young were captured at his banding station there, indicating nesting failure. The species was unusually absent in September and October at that location.

The event of the season was the appearance of a **Gray Kingbird** near the west shore of the Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS. Discovered on 28 Oct by Richard Guthrie, this bird was seen and photographed by many observers as it actively fed around farm buildings and a horse pasture. It was not seen after 4 Nov, but a Gray Kingbird found in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, in late November possibly was the same bird.

An adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was present on Saratoga Lake SARA from 5 Nov to the end of the period. Discovered by George Hanson, the bird was usually seen with a flock of Common Goldeneye. Another adult male was observed several times on Tomhannock Reservoir.

Contributors: Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), R. Budliger, P. Connor, reports to Dial-a-Bird RBA (DAB), B. Graham, R. Guthrie, G. Hanson, B. Lee, A. Mapes (AAM), A. Mason (AM), L. Meade, B. Putnam, R. Yunick, C. Zink.

Abbreviations: FiveR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; SaraL – Saratoga Lake SARA; TomRes – Tomhannock Reservoir RENS.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** one TomRes 8 Nov (TC), only report. **Com. Loon:** max five SaraL 11 Nov (BL); last L George 26 Nov (LM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** last SaraL 29 Nov (BL). **Horned Grebe:** last three SaraL 29 Nov (BL). **Red-necked Grebe:** only two reports of singles, last SaraL 29 Nov (BP). **Double-crested Cormorant:** frequent Hudson R throughout Sep (PC); last two Lock 7 on Mohawk R 11 Nov

(RY). **Great Egret**: four reports, max four Vischer Ferry 12 Sep (SS), last Chatham Colu 26 Sep (ADBC), fewer than usual. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: three Poebles I SARA 16 Sep (RG), only report. **Mute Swan**: *intro*. **Snow Goose**: max 350 TomRes 7 Nov (BL), last 20 L George 17 Nov (LM). **Brant**: 20 TomRes 30 Oct (RG) max, last two TomRes 11 Nov (BL). **Blue-winged Teal**: one Stony Creek Res SARA 14 Nov (BL), late. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one Stanton Pd ALBA 18 Oct, remained several weeks but departure not reported. **Oldsquaw**: two reports, last TomRes 14 Nov (BL), scarce. **Black Scoter**: four reports, max 21 Austerlitz 30 Oct (ADBC). **Surf Scoter**: three reports, arr and max ten Castleton, Hudson R 25 Oct (PC); nine Lock 7 Mohawk R SCHE 1 Nov (RY), unusual for that location. **White-winged Scoter**: seven reports, arr Mohawk R SCHE Oct 18 (BL). **Barrow's Goldeneye**: *intro*.

Bald Eagle: seven reports, found at new locations and with increasing frequency. **N. Harrier**: *intro*. **N. Goshawk**: one Nassau 17 Oct (PC), only report. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: last FiveR 3 Nov (AAM). **Red-tailed Hawk**: *intro*. **Rough-legged Hawk**: one Ft. Edward Wash 7 Nov (BP), only report, very scarce. **Peregrine Falcon**: one L George 28 Oct (LM), only report. **Wild Turkey**: max 20 Hague 14 Nov (LM), continuing to expand range into Adirondacks. **Com. Moorhen**: female with five less than half grown y Vischer Ferry 12 Sep (BP). **Greater Yellowlegs**: three reports only. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: only one report. **Hudsonian Godwit**: one Hook Road WASH 26 Oct (BG). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: only one report. **Least Sandpiper**: three reports. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: only one report. **Dunlin**: max four SARA 18 Oct (BP), last two TomRes 30 Oct (RG). **Com. Snipe**: max five WASH 26 Oct (BG). **Iceland Gull**: arr three imm Colonie Landfill ALBA 7 Nov (BL), two ad Moreau Landfill SARA 14 Nov (BG), more than usual. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one TomRes 31 Oct, only report.

Snowy Owl: *intro*. **Com. Nighthawk**: only report three Ann Lee Pd ALBA 2 Sep (SS). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: imm Old Chatham 15 Nov (PC) only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: five reports COLU, increasing.

E. Wood-Pewee: one Greenport 16 Oct (ADBC), record late. **GRAY KINGBIRD**: *intro*. **Horned Lark**: max 25 Unionville ALBA 7 Nov (DAB). **Tree Swallow**: last six FiveR 13 Nov (RB), very late. **Blue Jay**: scarce during last half of the period. **Com. Raven**: three reports ALBA, COLU, WASH. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one nocturnal migrant heard Schodack Center 24 Sep (PC), only report. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Berne 20 Sep (PC), many nocturnal migrants heard Schodack Center 24 Sep (PC), only reports. **Gray Catbird**: last near TomRes 9 Nov (BL), late. **Am. Pipit**: max 100 SARA 11 Oct (BP).

Yellow-throated Vireo: only one report. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one FiveR 1 Oct (AAM), only report. **N. Parula:** last TomRes 31 Oct (RG) late. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 60 Mill Creek Marsh COLU 16 Oct (PC). **Blackpoll Warbler:** last TomRes 28 Oct (RG), late.

Indigo Bunting: last two Mill Creek Marsh COLU 24 Sep (PC). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 20 COLU 8 Oct (PC). **Chipping Sparrow:** one at feeder Colonie ALBA 22-24 Nov (DAB), late. **Vesper Sparrow:** max six WASH 16 Sep (BP), last Jefferson 28 Sep (AM). **Fox Sparrow:** last FiveR 1 Nov (AAM). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** max three GREE 1 Oct (RG). **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr five GREE 1 Oct (RG). **Snow Bunting:** arr TomRes 31 Oct (BL), max 30 SARA 5 Nov (GH). **Red-winged Blackbird:** last male WASH 28 Nov (BP). **Rusty Blackbird:** max five WASH 11 Oct (BG). **Com. Grackle:** last Jefferson 29 Nov (AM). **House Finch:** *intro*. **Purple Finch:** *intro*. **Evening Grosbeak:** only two reports, four Schodack Center 1 Nov (PC), one Jefferson 5 Nov (AM).

Five Rivers Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, New York 12054

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

The weather for the fall 1992 can be termed in a word as "good" for the birds. Twenty-two cold fronts passed through the Region. These fronts brought some unseasonably cold temperatures, even in September, and five were accompanied by punishingly severe thunderstorms, even as late as in November. High winds (66 mph on 12 Nov), torrential downpours (4 inches in the evening of 9 Sep in WEST), and even a tornado (WEST on 9 Sep) caused road closings due to tree falls and flooding, and widespread power outages throughout the Region. Tropical Storm Danielle passed through the Region on 3 Sep, unaccompanied by unusual bird reports. At the Poughkeepsie Airport in September temperatures showed a high for the month of 87°F on 17 Sep, and a low of 34°F on 30 Sep. Rhinebeck recorded a Regional low of 25°F the same day! The first frost came on 24 Sep in the Catskills. Rainfall was highly variable through the Region. It was slightly higher in WEST and ROCK, but mostly lower than average to the north; the Poughkeepsie Airport recorded 1.98 inches during September, 1.68 inches below the norm. October's high of 80°F was recorded at the

Poughkeepsie Airport on 3 Oct and the low of 25°F was set on 28 Oct. The first snowfall was recorded on 18 Oct, when one inch fell on Slide Mountain in the Catskills. The 1.28 inches of rain recorded at the Poughkeepsie Airport for October was 2.02 inches below normal. Severe drought conditions were reported through the entire lower Hudson Valley region during October. The first three weeks of November were quite cold, with northwest winds. The last ten days were much warmer, dulling hopes for a winter like December. The low for the month was 13°F on 20 Nov, the high 69°F on 23 Nov. November was wet, with 4.54 inches of rain at the Poughkeepsie Airport, almost an inch more than normal.

The fall migration had its ups and downs. A total of 249 species was reported. For a change, passerine migration was impressive some days, as is reflected by the multiple reports of such hard to find species as Orange-crowned Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Dickcissel. The major Blue Jay passage days were between 21-29 Sep. Thousands of Canada Goose and lesser numbers of Snow Goose and Brant were noted moving from 1-4 Oct, and thousands of Brant were reported to have passed over the Region on 25 Oct. A major sparrow migration took place the night of 17 Oct; White-crowned Sparrow was very conspicuous from mid to late October. Finally, the American Robin migration window was 19-24 Oct, when several observers reported "many thousands". In contrast, even though there were many "classic" cold fronts to usher birds south, raptors remained inconspicuous. Numbers were down in almost all categories, and certain species were *way* down. Particularly alarming were Sharp-shinned Hawk, whose numbers continue to nose dive, and Northern Harrier, whose numbers were on average *half* of the fall of 1991's already depressed totals. The overall dip in numbers may be due to the poor weather conditions that are effecting many other birds of the tundra and northern coniferous forests. Let's hope this is not a permanent trend.

There were many reports of Wild Turkey from all over Region. Cedar Waxwing was well reported, but low numbers of American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, and Northern Cardinal were found, and Horned Grebe went unreported. Winter finches were very scarce this season.

This season's rarities included some very interesting species indeed. **Northern Gannet** again penetrated Long Island Sound as far as WEST. An **Eurasian race Green-winged Teal** was complimented by a **Tufted Duck**. A **King Rail** was seen crossing a marsh bordered causeway road in Kent PUTN on 13 Sep by Andrew Taylor. If that doesn't make your mouth water, the **Yellow Rail** seen at Crueger's Island in DUTC surely

will. On 16 Sep, Mark De Dea was fishing on the causeway when the bird flew in next to him and landed on the causeway where all field marks were noted. A write-up was submitted to the NYSARC for review. **Hudsonian Godwit** was a welcome visitor to the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, and two **Lesser Black-backed Gull** had returned to Rye, for the umpteenth year in-a-row, by mid November. An **Iceland Gull** was a surprise visitor to SULL, and a **Black Skimmer**, always a noteworthy away from the coast, strayed to ROCK. **Black Vulture** reports were frequent this fall, with too many to enumerate. Reports of groups up to seven in ROCK, and lesser numbers from all counties except WEST were received. A **Swainson's Hawk** graced the skies over Hook Mountain ROCK again this fall. A single **Snowy Owl** reached the Region by the season's end. Unexpected passerine reports began with an unseasonal **Summer Tanager**, followed by a small group of **Lapland Longspur**, and ended with a very obliging **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

Other unusual sightings included a Red-throated Loon picked up on the ground in SULL, apparently crash landing unharmed after becoming confused in dense fog near the Delaware River on 25 Nov. The bird, which was released on 27 Nov onto the same river, was a first record of this species for SULL (VF). White-winged Scoter was reported in numbers from several inland locations, including one in ULST in November and several groups of up to 15 individuals in WEST. Photographs of a leucistic Field Sparrow, which visited an ORAN feeder for a week in November, were submitted and an albino Red-tailed Hawk continues west of Pound Ridge Reservation in WEST.

With this issue Dr. John P. Tramontano, our ORAN sub-regional editor for 22 years, will step down. This editor and The Federation are indebted to John for his many years of faithful service. If anyone is willing to fill the position, please contact the Regional editor.

Contributors: Larry Alden, John P. Askildsen, Andrew Baldelli, Bedford Audubon Society, Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonanno, Lysle Brinker, Thomas W. Burke, Judith Cinquina, Mark De Dea, Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club, Dr. Valerie Freer, Padraic French, Walter Fritton, Roger Frost, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Chuck Harten, Highlands Audubon Society, John Burroughs Natural History Society, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Doris Metreaux, Frank Murphy, Dick Reid, Sullivan County Audubon Society, Dr. Andrew Taylor, Dorwin Teague, Drew Panko, Dr. Seldon Spencer, Dr. John P. Tramontano, Edward D. Treacy, Michael Usai, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Yonkers Audubon Society.

Abbreviations: EGR - Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye; HR - Hudson River; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PP - Piermont Pier, ROCK.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** one at PP 7 Nov, One 23 Nov DUTC; *intro.* **Com. Loon:** 6 at Rye 7 Nov, 3 HR ORAN 18 Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** 17 reports DUTC in Nov. **N. GANNET:** two off Rye 1 Nov (TB). **Great Cormorant:** arr Rye 25 Oct. **Double-crested Cormorant:** remained on coast through period. **Am. Bittern:** one MC 3 Oct (TWB). **Little Blue Heron:** one at MC 19-24 Sep. **Green-backed Heron:** last DUTC 14 Oct. **Snowy Egret:** max 25 MC 24 Sep, one dyed pink; another color dyed bird HR near Croton Pt in Sep; last MC 1 Nov. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** max three MC 20 Sep. **Snow Goose:** max 870 ORAN 7 Nov; many 100's reported 25 Oct. **Brant:** *intro.* **Canada Goose:** *intro.* **Wood Duck:** max 22 DUTC 17 Nov. **Green-winged Teal:** high numbers reported late Oct; one EURASIAN RACE 6-and-1/2 Station Sanctuary marsh 28 Nov (JT). **Redhead:** one EGR 26 Nov. **Canvasback:** 40 EGR 21 Nov. **TUFTED DUCK:** male returned to Playland L Rye 3 Nov (TWB). **Greater Scaup:** max 3000 EGR 7 Nov. **Lesser Scaup:** 300 EGR 21 Nov. **White-winged Scoter:** *intro.*

Hawk watch totals (nm denotes non-migrant):

	Butler Sanctuary	Mount Peter	Hook Mountain	Port Jervis	Bear Mountain
Black Vulture		nm 7	1		nm5
Turkey Vulture	280	24	431		
Osprey	299	142	373		16
Bald Eagle	21	12	33	3	6
N. Harrier	80	40	71	18	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1598	921	2211	4	62
Cooper's Hawk	171	66	88	9	
N. Goshawk	1	6	12	4	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	119	29	86	1	
Broad-winged Hawk	6628	8130	5500		2357
Swainson's Hawk			1		
Red-tailed Hawk	316	370	180	980	244
Rough-legged Hawk					
Golden Eagle	4	1	2	2	
Am. Kestrel	367	134	320		
Merlin	50		28		2
Peregrine Falcon	12	10	28	1	2

BLACK VULTURE: *intro.* **Bald Eagle:** six over Bear Mtn in Sep (EDT). **N. Harrier:** *intro.* **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** *intro.* **Broad-winged Hawk:** 3000 over Somers 13 Sep (DR). **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** imm light morph Hook.Mt 4 Oct (PF, mob)..**Red-tailed Hawk:** 138 Port Jervis 26 Oct, max 583 there 6

Nov and 259 on 7 Nov (EDT); *intro*. **Golden Eagle**: arr two Stissing 18 Nov; two Port Jervis 26 Oct (EDT). **Merlin**: scattered reports away from hawk watches. **Peregrine Falcon**: ad female on Beacon-Newburgh Bridge entire season. **N. Bobwhite**: five reported from DUTC. **YELLOW RAIL**: *intro*. **Clapper Rail**: two MC to 14 Nov. **KING RAIL**: *intro*. **Virginia Rail**: one MC to 9 Nov. **Sora**: up to four MC to 1 Nov. **Com. Moorhen**: one MC 16 Sep, rare there in fall. **Black-bellied Plover**: one DUTC 1 Nov; 17 MC 25 Oct, last 12 there 9 Nov. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: 147 Warren Turf Farm ORAN 7 Sep (JPA, AJL, AB); 100 there through Oct (JPT). **Semipalmated Plover**: 15 MC 21 Sep, last there 24 Oct. **Killdeer**: 37 L Welch ORAN 7 Oct. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 10 MC 1 Nov. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: one MC 1 Nov, late. **Solitary Sandpiper**: one MC 12 Oct; one DUTC 10 Nov very late. **Upland Sandpiper**: up to 20 Warren Turf Farm ORAN late Aug (JPT), last two on 6 Sep (HAS). **Whimbrel**: one MC 24 Sep (TWB). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: three MC 20 Oct (TWB), one remaining to 30 Oct. **Ruddy Turnstone**: one EGR 26 Sep. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 75 MC 5 Sep, last 24 Oct. **W. Sandpiper**: eight MC 6 Sep (TWB). **Least Sandpiper**: max 12 MC 5 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr at MC 10 Sep; three there 20 Oct (TWB); four L Welch ORAN 17 Nov, late inland (WF). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: singles only. **Purple Sandpiper**: four EGR 30 Oct. **Dunlin**: max 70 MC 1 Nov. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one MC 10-17 Oct. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: six MC 5 Sep. **Com. Snipe**: widespread singles only. **Am. Woodcock**: two MC 24 Oct. **Laughing Gull**: 32 EGR 30 Nov. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr two EGR 3 Nov, max 52 there 24 Nov. **ICELAND GULL**: ad Woodbourne SULL 23 Nov (VF). **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: *intro*. **Com. Tern**: Rye 26 Sep. **Forster's Tern**: arr Rye 25 Sep, max 46 on 27 Oct, last three on 14 Nov; one SULL 15 Oct and one on HR at Cold Spring. **BLACK SKIMMER**: one PP 23 Nov (CH, ph), first ROCK record.

E. Screech-Owl: one MC 4 Sep, uncommon on coast. **SNOWY OWL**: one PP 17 Nov (DT, mob). **Long-eared Owl**: one DUTC 29 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 100 Rock 3 Sep. **Whip-poor-will**: one DUTC 8 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: last DUTC 25 Sep. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one ULST 30 Oct, two n WEST 12 Sep and 24 Oct, only reports. **Pileated Woodpecker**: 14 reports DUTC in Nov.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: eight reports SULL and DUTC in Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one DUTC 14 Sep. **Willow Flycatcher**: one MC 5 Sep (TWB). **Least Flycatcher**: one MC 12 Sep (TWB). **Horned Lark**: max 325 Warren Turf Farm ORAN 15 Oct. **Purple Martin**: two MC 5 Sep. **Tree Swallow**: last MC 23 Oct. **Barn Swallow**: last n WEST 17 Oct. **Blue Jay**: *intro*. **Com. Raven**: regular in n SULL, two in DUTC 7 Sep. **Winter Wren**: arr WEST 13 Sep. **Marsh Wren**: one EGR 14 Nov. **Am. Robin**: *intro*. **Am. Pipit**: max 36 MC 23 Oct.

White-eyed Vireo: one DUTC 2 Sep, two MC 12 Sep. **Philadelphia Vireo:** five reports Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** singles Yonkers 18 Oct, DUTC 17 Sep-early Oct, and Rye 25-26 Nov. **Connecticut Warbler:** three Sep reports from DUTC. **Mourning Warbler:** one MC 1 Sep. **Hooded Warbler:** one DUTC 21 Sep. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one s WEST 11 Sep.

SUMMER TANAGER: one MC 2 Sep (TWB). **Dickcissel:** singles MC 30 Sep-1 Oct, Yonkers 4 Oct, and DUTC 22 Oct. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr DUTC 16 Oct. **Chipping Sparrow:** last in WEST 30 Oct. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one EGR 21-23 Nov (AG, JPA, mob), few WEST records. **Field Sparrow:** *intro*. **Vesper Sparrow:** two DUTC in Oct. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** max seven MC 2 Oct, last two on 1 Nov. **Fox Sparrow:** arr WEST 25 Oct. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr WEST 30 Sep. **White-throated Sparrow:** arr WEST 20 Sep. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr n WEST 3 Sep, early, not reported elsewhere before late Sep. **LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** six Ashokan Res ULST 12 Oct (FM, LA). **Snow Bunting:** small numbers widespread by early Oct. **E. Meadowlark:** max 100 Millerton 14 Nov, very high count. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Rye 25 Sep. **Purple Finch:** almost non-existent in WEST, small numbers reported in n section of Region. **Red Crossbill:** one pair Clairville 16 Sep (SCAS). **Pine Siskin:** four DUTC 30 Oct. **Evening Grosbeak:** small numbers reported in n part of Region.

Exotics: Black-headed Parakeet: two ORAN 10 Oct.

Correction: *Kingbird* 42(3):196 — **Red-necked Grebe** should read 12+ (not 124) in Rye.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

Overall, the fall season was cool, with about normal rainfall. However, September and November were both much wetter and October dryer than normal. There were a few flight days in early September when large numbers of warblers were found, and another in mid October with good sparrow numbers. But, for the most part, fall birding has become a sport of following rarities rather than enjoying numbers.

The exceptional weather event for the season was tropical storm Daneille, which came up from the south, veered east along the New Jersey coast, and gave Long Island rain, not too much wind, but lots of beach erosion. Except for the following, this storm produced little in the way of unusual birds or birding interest. In the late afternoon of 26 Sep, Peter Martin saw a storm-petrel in the surf at Tobay moving to the east, but was unable to identify it. About 5:30 PM on the same day, Starr Saphir and Robert Machover reported seeing a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** in the surf east of Tobay at Cedar Beach. This species is much less common than the Wilson's Storm-Petrel near land and seldom is found even far offshore. Evaluation of this record by NYSARC is awaited.

A pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon on 7 Sep reported (*fide* NYRBA) one Cory's Shearwater, six Greater Shearwater, 100+ Wilson's Storm-Petrel, three Red-necked Phalarope, five Pomarine Jaeger, one Parasitic Jaeger and one unidentified jaeger.

It is interesting to compare the results of the two hawk watches in our area. Preliminary details from Fire Island and Ft. Tilden come from Drew Panko and Steve Walter respectively. Although both sites are on the coast and on Long Island, Ft. Tilden to the west begins to show some of the characteristics of mainland migration patterns. One third of the falcons at Fire Island are Merlin, while American Kestrel numbers are about the same at both locations. Accipiters and buteos are more numerous to the west, with Sharp-shinned Hawk making up the bulk of the difference. The two locations reported approximately the same number of hawks for the season with about 1,000 more Merlin along the beach offset by 1,000 more Sharp-shinned Hawk at Ft. Tilden. Our own limited observations of large accipiters and buteos at Jones Beach West End appear to support a difference in migration habits for these species between the Fire Island watch site to the east and the western end of Jones Beach.

Cooper's Hawk continue to be more visible in recent years, with increasing numbers reported both at the beaches and inland areas. An extremely large, very dark Peregrine Falcon wintering in the area (seen most often at the Jones Beach water tower, and it, or another very large dark bird, has been seen on the Marine Parkway Bridge). A similar bird was also present last fall and winter. The report of a dark phase Gyrfalcon last Fall lacked details and, in retrospect, should be considered suspect. One should be very careful in reporting Gyrfalcon.

The best land birding spot of the Fall was the Fire Island Hawk Watch, or nearby, where **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler** and **Lark Bunting** were observed. There were **no** reports of Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, winter finches and few Purple Finch and Pine Siskin. Henry Flamm made a special note of a Vesper Sparrow he had seen 23 Oct in a grassy field in Great Kills Park on Staten Island. His previous Staten Island sighting was on October 24, 1954. Although its nests in the Riverhead area, this species has become increasingly rare in the western part of our Region.

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Abbreviations: CB – Cedar Beach; CLP – Clover Lake Park, Staten Island; CM – Cow Meadow, Freeport; FT – Ft. Tilden; GB – Gilgo Beach; GKP – Great Kills Park, Staten Island; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; MPt – Montauk Point; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP – Robert Moses State Park; SPt – Sands Point.

Fall reports: **N. FULMAR:** one picked up on a street in Atlantic Beach 10 Sep, released 17 Sep (per JB to TB). **Cory's Shearwater:** *intro*, one MPt 26 Sep (NYRBA). **Greater Shearwater:** *intro*, one MPt 26 Sep (NYRBA). **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** *intro*. **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** *intro*. **N. Gannet:** one GKP 6 Nov (HF), west of the normal migration route, good numbers in the ocean after mid Nov. **BROWN PELICAN:** six JBCH 9 Sep (HR), 21 off Tobay 10–11 Sep. **Great Cormorant:** increasing numbers. **Cattle Egret:** one Belt Parkway 9 Sep (MH). **Least Bittern:** one Flushing Airport 5 Sep (GD). **Green-backed Heron:** one 10 Nov Gardiner P, West Islip (JQ). **Tundra Swan:** two J.F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary 13 Nov (BC), two Hook Pd Easthampton from 11 Nov (mob). **Snow Goose:** blue morphs Yaphank 28 Nov (JR) and JBWR 4 Nov (HR). **Wood Duck:** one RMSP 10 & 17 Nov (JR). **Green-winged Teal:** one Eurasian race Islip 17 Nov (NYRBA). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one JBWR 12 Sep, increasing to five on 3 Nov; one Deephole Creek, Mattituck 9 Nov (PG). **Tufted Duck:** one

JBWR 12 Oct (NYRBA). **Com. Eider**: four Democrat Pt 3 Nov, four MPt 1 Nov, gradually increasing to 1000+ by 28 Nov. **King Eider**: ad male PL 19–22 Nov, two MPt after 7 Nov. **Harlequin Duck**: max 18 Jones Inlet 11 Nov.

Hawk watch totals:

SPECIES	Fort Tilden	Fire Island
Osprey	211	265
eagles	4	6
N. Harrier	249	147
accipiters	2015	883
buteos	36	3
falcons	2610	3627
other	15	34
TOTAL	5140	4965

Turkey Vulture: one Moses Mt Staten I 24 Sep (HF), one Glen Cove 12 Oct (RC), one JBCH 20 Nov (HR, mob). **Bald Eagle**: one Fire I 20 Sep, one JBWE 24 Sep, one FT 1 Oct, two Fire I 5 Oct, one Fire I 20 Oct, two FT 1 Nov, one Flushing Meadow, an increase in migrating birds. **Broad-winged Hawk**: one 27 Sep JBCH, not seen at the Fire I Hawk Watch (PM, SS), two JBWE 1 Oct (JF), rare on the barrier beach. **Rough-legged Hawk**: two RMSP 7 Nov (Mildred Penzer), one Meadowbrook Parkway 26 Nov (PM). **Golden Eagle**: one Fire I 25 Oct. **Peregrine Falcon**: a pair returned to roost for the winter on the water tower at JBCH. **Virginia Rail**: one JFKWS 14 Oct (Art Gruber, ZP), *intro*. **Sora**: one Hook Pd Easthampton 11 Oct (JF), one JBWR 12 Oct. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: 47 w Riverhead 3 Sep, other reports JBWR to MPt to 22 Nov. **Am. Oystercatcher**: 80 JBWR 31 Oct, 47 11 Nov, one Zach's Bay to season's end. **Solitary Sandpiper**: one Flushing Airport 26 Sep (GD). **Upland Sandpiper**: one Central P 2 Sep (NYRBA). **Hudsonian Godwit**: present JBWR 2 Sep–31 Oct, max nine 24 Oct. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: four CB 29 Oct (SS). **Baird's Sandpiper**: up to four at CB to 18 Sep (mob), one JBWR 2 and 5 Sep. **Purple Sandpiper**: JBWE from 20 Nov, four Morgan P, Glen Cove 24 Nov (RC). **Curlew Sandpiper**: one JBWR 2–7 Sep (mob), one JBWE 18 Sep (BC). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: 14 n Riverhead 3 Sep, five Cutchogue 5 Sep (PG), one JBWR 5 Sep, one CB 12 Sep and 4 Oct. **Ruff**: two females Baiting Hollow 3 Oct (BA). **Wilson's Phalarope**: one JBWR 13 Sep (Lars Hansen). **Red-necked Phalarope**: *intro*. **Pomarine Jaeger**: *intro*. **Parasitic Jaeger**: *intro*. **Little Gull**: one Shln 14–22 Nov (JF, mob), two Montauk Harbor 14 Nov and one 21 Nov.

Iceland Gull: one CB 25 Oct), one Southold 28 Nov (NYRBA). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** *nine* reports from seven locations JBWR to MPt after 26 Sep; more than usual. **Caspian Tern:** one Mecox Bay 5–7 Oct (PG, mob). **Royal Tern:** 11+ Mecox Bay 17 Oct (PDeB), one RMSP 31 Oct (RM), others late Sep to 3 Nov (NYRBA). **Forster's Tern:** reports to 23 Oct. **Black Tern:** five SPt 3 Sep (GQ), one JBWR 2–3 Sep (mob).

Barn Owl: one JBCH 8 Nov (JF). **Snowy Owl:** one Smith Pt P 5 Nov; one CB 6 Nov; three Shln 15 Nov, four 22 Nov, two 28 Nov; two CB 29 Nov; one Democrat Pt 29 Nov (NYRBA). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** three JBCH to Fire I late Nov (NYRBA). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** seven reports of migrants at the Fire I Hawk Watch, another at Ft Tilden Hawk Watch.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one CLP 5 Sep (HF), one JBCH 12 Sep (DT). **E. Phoebe:** 100+ 1 Oct (LS). **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER:** one Riis P 24 Oct (SW). **Great Crested Flycatcher:** one Wading River 2 Nov (John S. Ruscica), late. **W. Kingbird:** a dozen reports JBWE to MPt 3 Sep to 29 Nov. **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** one RMSP 22 Oct (DT, Bob Hines). **FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** one RMSP 13 Oct (AL, mob). **N. WHEATEAR:** one JBWE 24 Sep (Ken Carpenter, AL, mob). **SEDGE WREN:** one Forest P 3 Oct (Guy Tudor). **Am. Pipit:** flying over JBCH 25 Oct (SS,AW).

Philadelphia Vireo: several 2 Sep to 7 Oct (NYRBA). **Golden-winged Warbler:** one Central P 2 Sep (NYRBA), one Brooklyn 12 Sep (NYRBA), one SPt 19 Sep (HM, Aln). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** a half dozen reports. **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER:** one Fire I Hawk Watch 14 Sep (JQ, mob). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one JBWE 18 Sep (David Nyzio). **Pine Warbler:** three RMSP 7 Nov (JQ). **Cerulean Warbler:** one JBWR 13 Sep (Lars Hansen). **Kentucky Warbler:** one Central P 2 Sep (NYRBA). **Connecticut Warbler:** two SPt 7 Sep (HM), one SPt 20 Sep (GQ), one Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn 12 Sep (NYRBA), one Fire I 20 Sep (NYRBA). **Mourning Warbler:** one SPt 20 Sep (GQ), others. **Hooded Warbler:** one SPt 20 Sep (GQ), one RMSP 30 Sep (NYRBA). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** several reported.

Blue Grosbeak: one JBCH 4 Oct (MB, mob), one RMSP 13 Oct (JF), one FT 18 Oct (NYRBA). **Dickcissel:** one FT 29 Sep (NYRBA), two Whitestone 6 Oct (LS), one GB 11 Nov (SS, AW). **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one JBCH 27 Sep (RM, StS), one GB 12 Oct, one FT 24 Oct, one RMSP 7 Nov (JQ). **Vesper Sparrow:** *intro*, one FT 6 Oct, two Muttontown 21 Oct (AL), one Piping Rock Country Club 27 Oct (BC). **Lark Sparrow:** one Fire I 6 Sep, one Smith Pt County P 13 Sep (NYRBA), one PL 19–23 Sep (mob). **LARK BUNTING:** one Fire I Hawk Watch 14 Sep (Dave Mizrahi,

mob). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one JBWE 1 Oct, one FT 23 Oct (NYRBA). **Henslow's Sparrow**: one Central P 4 Oct (Wilma & Bill Baumann). **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: very dull bird on lawn with migrant sparrows MPt 18 Oct (PDeB). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: several. **Lapland Longspur**: two-three CB 4-12 Oct (NYRBA). **Snow Bunting**: flock of 50 GKP 3 Nov (HF), 160 JBCH wintering. **Bobolink**: Flushing Airport 5 Sep (GD), 25 SPt 10 Sep (GQ). **Rusty Blackbird**: two CM 25 Sep (PM) Alley Pd P 13-27 Nov. **Boat-tailed Grackle**: eight CB 21 Sep (JR), 40 CM 19 Oct (PM). **Orchard Oriole**: one CLP 28 Sep (HF). **N. Oriole**: one RMSP 29 Nov (NYRBA); one **BULLOCK's** race GB 11 Nov (MB, mob).

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